

*Stuff not worth reading
because
very bad*

FORTUNATE VILLAGER:

Trans lation

O R,

M E M O I R S

O F

SIR ANDREW THOMPSON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL II.

Quid virtus & quid sapientia possit
Utile proposuit nobis exemplar.-----

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FOR THE

M E M O R S



ANDREW THOMPSON

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MEMOIRS

OF

Sir Andrew Thompson.

THESE last Words were pronounced in such a manner, as almost directed me what Answer I should make to them. I perceived I should oblige her extremely by not appearing very impatient. To say the truth, I had not resolution enough to refuse her request. I was then so weak as to forfeit my sincerity; for I really loved Miss *Maddox*, at least I believed so, and that was the same thing with regard to what I was now saying; but even supposing I had not, nevertheless the circumstances in which I then found myself, the obligations she had already, and which she was still going to confer upon me, were sufficient reasons to have induced me to acknowledge my affection for her, without the least hesitation. I omitted however this necessary part of my duty, and that only because this lady had a mind that I should not say so. However, as I was incapable of being a continued cheat, I took a middle way between the two extremes, and that was the contenting myself with a smile without saying a syllable.

‘Yes, yes,’ said the Lady, ‘I understand very well what you mean; you are rather grateful than amorous; I knew how the case stood very well; and yet that lady has not been ugly formerly.’ While she was saying this, I tried the pen that I had been mending; but as it did not please me, I try’d a second time, partly to make it better, but chiefly to

lengthen out the time, being very desirous to know what would be the end of this conversation. 'She is strangely altered indeed lately,' said she, yet formerly she was tolerably handsome; but now, as her sister says she must be pretty near fifty years of age. I only made her of my age, in order to render her the more excusable; for, had I taken the eldest sister's part, in all probability I should have prejudiced you very much.'

'I took great notice, madam,' said I, of the favour that you shewed me.' 'Tis true,' reply'd she, 'I did declare myself for you pretty openly; indeed I placed myself in Miss Maddox's situation, and considered what an affliction it would have been to me to have lost you; and I dare say, notwithstanding she is so old, it would have affected her very sensibly; besides, I am extremely solicitous for your welfare.'

What I said or thought upon hearing this last speech, is more than can be well described. I made a considerable pause, and at last reply'd, 'Alas! madam, I should say just as much of you, if you thought it worth while to take any notice of me.' 'And why not?' replied she, 'I never despise any one's friendship, much less that of a person whom I have so great a regard for as I have for you; for you are extremely agreeable to me, I assure you. I do not know why, but I was greatly prejudiced in your favour as soon as I saw you. I do not consider people's fortune and rank in life; if they please me, that is sufficient, I enquire no farther.'

Though she slid in these last words with an air as if she did not know what she had been saying, yet she was obliged to hold down her head, being conscious of the sincerity with which she had spoke them. I was all this time endeavouring to mend a pen for her. It was time, therefore, either to have done it, or to leave it, as it was. 'I should be extremely obliged to you, madam,' said I, 'if you would still

continue



‘continue to favour me with your esteem, as it would go a great way towards the compleating my happiness.’

I said this, while I was returning her the pen that I had mended. She try’d it, and said that it would do very well. ‘You can write legibly,’ said she, ‘cannot you?’ ‘pretty well, madam,’ reply’d I. ‘I should be glad,’ said she, ‘if you would copy something for me that I want to have wrote out very fair. Whenever you please, madam,’ said I.

She then began writing her letter to Miss *Maddox*, taking however, her eyes off from time to time, to look at me. ‘Is your father a handsome man?’ said she. ‘Is it him that you are like, or your mother?’ ‘My mother, madam,’ said I. ‘Your story, together with that of the old lady whom you are going to be married to, is something very surprizing. (This she said sneeringly, affecting however an affable smile.) She must have had a good taste, notwithstanding the retired way in which she has always lived. Indeed I have no objection to make against her. Be sure now you live peaceably with her. This I would much advise you to do. You may after that do what you will with your heart; for people, at your time of life, seldom or never preserve it untouched.’

‘Alas! madam,’ said I, ‘what signifies whether I preserve it, or no. Who would accept of such a one as I am?’ ‘oh!’ said she, shaking her head, ‘the great difficulty would not lie there.’ ‘I beg to be excused,’ replied I, ‘because it would not be a person of equal fortune to myself that I should be in love with, it would be somebody greatly above my expectations; that would be the only obstacle that I should have to fear.’ ‘Well,’ said she, ‘that sentiment becomes you well; I esteem you for it, do not lose it; it reflects some honour upon you; and, if you will believe me, will produce some advantage; take courage.’ And this she said, looking earnestly at me. ‘But talking of hearts,’ said she, ‘is not yours inclined to tenderness? It is

‘the sign of a good disposition.’ ‘Oh! then,’ said I, ‘I am of one of the best dispositions in the world.’ ‘You are very lively indeed,’ said she, ‘but pray have you any particular person in your eye at present? Are you in love with any body?’ Yes, madam,’ said I, ‘I am in love with every one to whom I lie under obligations, and particularly, madam, with yourself above every one else.’

‘Have a care,’ said she, ‘what you are saying. Consider, I am now talking of love; you have no more love for other people than you have for me. If you do love us, it is out of gratitude, and not on account of any charms that you have discovered in us.’ ‘with respect to such people as you, madam,’ said I, ‘one loves upon every account; however, it is by no means becoming for me to say so.’ ‘Oh!’ said she, ‘sir, I was only joking; and, provided you can keep your own counsel, I freely forgive you.’ ‘If I could not,’ said I, ‘I should think myself greatly to blame.’

‘Softly, however,’ said she, putting her hand upon my mouth, ‘you must say this to me in private; for if ever it should come to Miss Maddox’s ears, it would occasion a quarrel between us.’ ‘I should be cautious enough,’ said I, ‘supposing she was here.’ ‘Truly,’ reply’d she, ‘those old women are so jealous, and the world so censorious, that one must always hold one’s tongue upon such subjects as these.’ We then heard some noise in the adjoining apartment. ‘Is there not some servant listening?’ said she, folding up, her letter. ‘I should be extremely sorry if there was: let us go out; give this note to Miss Maddox; tell her, that I am her friend, do you hear, and come and let me know as soon as ever you are married. You will see my name at the bottom of the note. On second thoughts, you had better not come till the evening; I will give you those papers to copy, and we will then talk of what method I can be serviceable to you for the future. Go, my

'my dear child, and be discreet. I am very well inclined towards you,' said she, in a lower voice, and giving me the note, in such a manner, as seemed to be willing that I should take hold of her hand too.

I immediately took the hint; so that, when I took the note, I kissed her hand at the same time, which she stretched out seemingly on purpose, and did not draw it back, till I had impressed several tender endearments on it. While I was holding her, 'you must not say a syllable of this neither,' said she. 'Oh! madam,' said I, 'you may very safely depend upon my discretion: however unpolish'd I may be, yet I know when I am used well, and never trespass or take advantage of a lady's prejudice in my behalf.'

This last speech of mine, which was not of the most delicate kind, made her blush a good deal. I was so ignorant as not to know the impropriety I had been guilty of. She recovered herself presently. Upon the whole, I found that she was not sorry at what had escaped me unawares; it was a sign that I understood what she felt for me, and that saved her the trouble of disguising what she now could venture to say with much more freedom. Without putting on the least reserve, we then parted: she returned into the justice's apartment; and I went out of the house, filled with a very agreeable sensation.

The reader may perhaps ask, whether I had formed any settled resolution to love her? I answer him, that I had, as yet, determined nothing about it. I was only extremely pleased to find myself so much in the good graces of a lady of fortune. I rejoiced a good deal, without knowing either what would be the end of it, or considering what was to be my future behaviour, in order to the preserving it. I cannot say either that this lady was indifferent to me, or on the other hand, that I was in love with her. The sensation which I felt, could scarce be called by that name, since I should never have paid any more than

common civility to her, if she had not first began to look upon me with some degree of attention; and, I believe, if I add affection too, I shall not be much mistaken; nor indeed after all, should I have troubled myself about her, if she had not been a person of family and fortune. It was not then herself that I was in love with, but her rank, which, in comparison of mine, was surely great. I saw a woman of quality, who had an equipage and a number of servants at her command, and who found something amiable in me; permitting me to kiss her hand, enjoining me secrecy at the same time; in short, a woman who was raising me out of that obscurity in which I was before buried: for before that time, I had no great esteem for myself, and scarcely knew that there was such a thing as vanity.

It was true, indeed, that I was going to be married to Miss *Maddox*; but then she had begun, by representing my condition as equal to hers; she had not given me time to be proud of the conquest I had made. In short, I concluded her, in all respects, as my equal. I had been her cousin, at least her pretended cousin, which took off all notions of distance and ceremony between us. But here the difference was so wide, that I lost myself in thinking of it; and yet, so wide as it was, I was the person courted; inasmuch that in an instant, as it were, I found myself upon a level with a woman of rank and fortune: this was enough to turn a stronger head than mine, and if not to inspire it with love, yet at least to fill it with sentiments very nearly approaching to that passion.

I was in love then, through respect and astonishment at the adventure that had befallen me: In short, by every thing, but more especially by the charms of the lady; for till then I had never seen any one so amiable. She was, however, fifty years of age, (which in the opinion of most of my male readers, would have been a very unfortunate and disgusting circumstance)

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stance) but still I thought no more about it. She had every thing that I wished her to have. Had she been twenty years younger, I should not have liked her a bit the better upon that account: she was a goddess, and goddesses, you know, never grow old.

I returned home then, full of joy, puffed up with vanity, and with my foolish opinion of the lady's excessive merit. I never once recollected, that these several reflections were so many injuries to Miss *Maddox*: the truth was, that I experienced no kind of change in my heart towards her; I went back to her, with my usual tenderness; I was extremely delighted to marry one, and to be agreeable to another; two pleasures, which, in my opinion, are not in the least inconsistent with each other. However, before I gave an account of my return to Miss *Maddox*, I ought to have drawn the portrait of my goddess, whom I was just come from. I may as well give it here, as it will not take up a great deal of room.

The reader is already acquainted with her age. I have already told him, likewise, that she was well made; but that is not saying enough; for there are few women that I ever saw so well made. She carried herself always extremely modest; and yet in such a manner as not to diminish in the least the sight of any of her natural perfections. Her hands were exceeding fine, and her arms appeared to great advantage, through the fine linen that she wore, which, as it conveyed the whiteness of them, so it concealed their being wither'd. Her face, it is true, was a little old, but had the remains of exquisite beauty. Her neck was exceedingly well made, (one must not forget that article, which is almost as essential to a beauty as her face) and white; wrinkled indeed, but the wrinkles of which, by unfolding, discovered frequently the whiteness of the skin; and the little one saw of it gave a very favourable idea of the rest. Her eyes were large and blue, and naturally lively, tender and amorous. I cannot give a full description of

them: Nature and art had so contributed to the formation of those eyes, that one could hardly ever say enough of them.

Is it possible to describe every thing that one feels? they who maintain such an absurdity, one would be apt to imagine seldom or never have any sensations; or at least perceive but half of what it is in their power to take a full view of. Let us now come to the face. At first sight of her, you would say that she was extremely grave: on a nearer view you would imagine, that she had acquired this air of wisdom and gravity, but had it not naturally. Her physiognomy denoted her virtuous, but signified, at the same time, that she was so by constraint.

As to her understanding, you might conjecture that she had a great deal, nor would you be at all mistaken; I did not know her sufficiently to give my opinion of that matter more positively. As to her character, it would be very difficult to give an exact definition of it; what I am going to say, will give the reader, if not the most exact, yet at least a very particular idea of it. She loved no body, and was more inclined to hurt her neighbour than she actually took the pains to execute. The reputation she aimed at of appearing good, hindered her from appearing so wicked as she would otherwise have done; however, she had the art of rousing up the malice of other people, and that served instead of exercising her own. Wherever she came, scandal and detraction were the usual topics of conversation; and this was what engaged others to do the same; either by praising or defending some body very unseasonably. In short, by a number of concessions, which seemed very obliging, and as great a number of charitable exclamations in the midst of abuse, she contrived to satisfy her own splenetick disposition, at the expence of her neighbours characters, and most commonly at the expence of truth too. Whenever she had drawn others in, she would oftentimes affect an air of surprize at their relations.

lations. 'Good God!' would she, often say, what is it that you are telling? are you sure that you do not deceive me? is it possible! so that she always brought herself off innocent of the crimes which she had made others commit. She always became the defender of those whose reputations she had secretly ruined, by means of other people. But what is the most to be wondered at in all this is, that this lady was wholly ignorant she was of this untoward disposition. She knew nothing of what was at the bottom of her heart; her address and artifice deceived herself, and as she pretended for a long while together to be of a good disposition, she at length fully persuaded herself that she was so:

This was the character of the lady I had just left. The portrait I have drawn of her, is according to what I afterwards heard of her; and indeed, according to what I myself was an eye-witness of during the little while that we were acquainted. She had been a widow, between nine and ten years: her husband, some time before his death, was dissatisfied at her conduct; he had accused her of some irregularity in her behaviour. In order, therefore, to wipe off this stain from her character, and to prove her husband in the wrong, she had for some time past pretended to be more than ordinarily devout; this she supported herself in, as well by the natural haughtiness of her temper, as by the indeecency there would have been in appearing in the world again; where her charms would have been no longer acknowledged, supposing they had not suffered by the retirement which she had lived in for some time past, which is usually the case; since, in general, the preservation of beauty requires more care than that state either can or will admit of.

I was returning towards Miss *Mudox's*, extremely happy, when a long train of coaches and chariots stopped up the entrance of a street, and prevented my going forwards. I did not chuse to risk going between them, for fear of being hurt; while, therefore, I

staid till they were gone by, and the passage should be cleared, I turned up a court, and began to read the note which Mrs. *Amyand* (for so I shall call the justice's relation) had given me for Miss *Maddox*, and which she had not (designedly I suppose) sealed up.

I had scarce read the first line, when I saw a man come hastily down some steps, at the farther end of the court, cross it hastily, pass by me, and dropping a naked sword just by me, escaped, and shut the iron gate of the court upon me. The sight of this transaction gave me a good deal of concern. My first endeavour was to open the gate as fast as I could; but I try'd a great while, and to no purpose. On the other hand, I heard a great noise at the end of the court; and, as in such cases as these all our motions tend mechanically to our preservation, I having no time to lose, my hand, took up the sword that lay at my feet, hardly knowing what I was doing. The noise above stairs by this time was considerably increased; I thought I heard several screams out of one of the houses; and in particular the sound of 'stop him! stop him!' nor was I at all mistaken; however, I determined at all events to keep the sword fast that I had got in my hand, while with the other I endeavoured to open the gate, which at last, I accomplished, without ever thinking of letting go the sword, now I had no further occasion for it.

Notwithstanding the gate was open, yet my situation was not at all better than before. A great mob had gathered themselves together, and seeing me come out frightened, with a drawn sword in my hand, they did not doubt but I was some robber or murderer. I was endeavouring to make my escape, but soon found that was impossible. Indeed, my endeavours only served to strengthen the suspicions that had already been formed against me. In the mean time a constable and his assistants came out of a neighbouring

watch-house, tore my sword out of my hand, and took hold of me.

I was willing to have made my defence, but the noise that the mob made was too great to admit of my being heard; notwithstanding, therefore, the resistance that I made, which against such a number of people was ridiculous, they dragged me to the farther end of the court, made me go into one of the houses up one pair of stairs, followed by some of the neighbours, into a little room, where we found a young lady lying on the ground, deeply wounded, fainted away, and an old woman endeavouring to lift her into a great chair: over-against her was a young man extremely well dressed, wounded and lying upon a couch, crying out for help for the young lady, while the old woman and servants were all the while making a most lamentable noise. 'Quick, gentlemen,' said the young man, 'fetch a surgeon; she is dying, perhaps you may be able to save her,' (speaking of the young lady.) There luckily lived a surgeon over the way; they called for him out of the window; he came presently and brought his apprentice along with him. A justice of the peace had likewise been sent for. As I was talking a good deal of the injustice that was done me, in keeping me a prisoner, as I had no concern in the affair, they put me into a closet and made me stay there, till they had dressed the lady's and the young man's wounds.

The lady, by this time, was come to herself; as soon, therefore, as her wound had been dressed, they carried me into the room to her. 'Do you know this young man?' said the constable. 'Examine him well; we found him in the court, with the gate shut upon him, endeavouring to open it with one hand, and holding a naked sword in the other.' 'The sword is all over blood,' said one of those who stood by, 'no doubt, therefore, but this is that very sword with which you have been wounded.' 'No indeed, gentlemen,' said the young man, in a very firm voice.

voice, 'we know nothing of this person, this is not the man that has put us in this miserable condition; we know very well who it was; his name is --; (I really do not remember it;) however, as this man was in the court, and you have found the sword upon him, it is not at all improbable, but he was an accomplice in the affair, and was to have been a principal actor, if there had been any need of his assistance.' 'Thou miserable wretch,' said the young lady, without giving me any time to reply, 'what is become of the person whose accomplices you most undoubtedly are?'

She had not sufficient strength to say any more; for being mortally wounded, she fell back and fainted away. I thought I had now an opportunity of saying something for myself; but I was mistaken, for the constable, who began speaking first, interrupted and would not let me go on. 'This is not the place,' said he, 'for you to make your defence in; go along.' Whereupon I was immediately dragged down stairs, where I staid till a coach, that they had sent for, came, in which I was conveyed to prison. The place into which I was put, was not totally dark; there was a glimmering light in it, and that was all. Luckily for me, the turnkey (whom, according to the nature of those persons in general, I expected to find extremely surly and ill-natured) did seem to have some notions of humanity; he did not inspire me with terror, and as in distress one catches at the least twig, in order to save one's self, and a face that does not look like a brute's, appears to be a man's.

'Sir,' said I, putting into his hand one of those pieces of gold that miss *Maddox* had made me a present of, which he did not refuse, and which engaged him to give me a more favourable hearing than he would otherwise have done; and which I had preserved safe, (though, in truth, that was owing rather to accident than design, there being a hole in my pocket

et and the purse falling down to the bottom of it.)
 'Sir,' said I, 'since you have the liberty of going
 'backwards and forwards, I should be extremely ob-
 'liged to you, if you would do me a favour. I am
 'not guilty of the crime that is laid to my charge;
 'as time will more fully shew you. My present con-
 'finement is owing to a very unlucky accident. I
 'was just coming out from justice ———, when a
 'lady, who is a relation of his, gave me a note to
 'carry to Miss *Maddox*, who lives in *Clarges Street*;
 'as, therefore, I cannot give it her, I trust it to you;
 'be so good only as to carry or send it, and inform
 'that lady of the place in which I am confined.
 'Come,' said I, pulling out a piece of money, 'there
 'is something to pay the bearer; this, is all I want;
 'you shall be rewarded in another manner when I am
 'released from my confinement.'

'Stay a little' said the turnkey, pulling out a pen-
 'cil; 'it is, you say, to Miss *Maddox* in *Clarges*
 '*Street* that the note is to be carried.' 'Yes,' said
 I. 'Well, I am going out,' said he, 'about some
 'other business, and you may depend upon my go-
 'ing there immediately.' He then left me.

I could not forbear bursting into tears on seeing my-
 self in confinement; tho' it was rather through sur-
 prise than fear; in short it was through a kind of
 emotion, caused by the accident that had happened to
 me; for I had no notion that my life was in any dan-
 ger. Upon such occasions as these, we are most com-
 monly affected in such a manner as we ought to be;
 our souls in part (if I may be allowed the expression)
 do themselves justice. An innocent man only sighs,
 the guilty trembles; the one is afflicted, the other is
 tormented. I was only afflicted, and this was only
 what I deserved. What an accident is this? What
 business had I in that cursed court? sure the devil
 possessed me to go into it: and then my tears flow'd
 afresh in great abundance. Good God! where am
 I? what wicked people are the eldest Miss *Maddox*
 and the clergyman to occasion all this uneasiness; since,
 had

had it not been for them, I should have been very quietly at home. I then sighed, wept, spoke, and was silent alternately. My poor father little thinks, said I, 'that I am in prison on my wedding-day; and Miss *Maddox*, who is waiting for me impatiently, still less suspects the disaster that has befallen me. What a time will it be before I shall have the pleasure of seeing her again?'

All these considerations overwhelmed me with grief. At last, more comfortable reflections came to my assistance. I need not despair, thought I, God will not forsake me. If the turnkey delivers my letter to Miss *Maddox*, and informs her of what has happened to me, she will not fail using her utmost endeavours for my deliverance; and indeed I had great reason for these hopes, as the sequel will shew. The turnkey kept his word with me; Mrs. *Anyand's* letter was conveyed to Miss *Maddox* in an hour or two after I had given it him; he carried it himself; informed her of the place I was confined in: He came to tell me this piece of news, bringing with him at the same time some provision, which was not very tempting.

'Chear up,' said he, 'I have carried your letter to the lady, and told her where you were. She fainted away as soon as she heard that you were confined.' Pray was there any one at hand, said I, 'to give her any assistance?' 'Oh! yes,' said he, 'there were two other people with her.' 'What,' said I, 'did she say nothing to you?' 'how could she,' replied he, 'when she was not able to speak? come, eat, a little, it will do you good.' 'I cannot eat,' said I; 'I should be glad of some drink. Could not I get a little wine?' 'Oh! yes,' said he, 'very easily, if you will pay for it, I will go and fetch you some immediately.' After all the money that he had of me, to have asked for more would have sounded ungrateful in any other place than a prison; but as it was, I was in the wrong for not offering him

some

some first; however I soon perceived any mistake, and rectified it. 'Alas!' said I, 'you will excuse me, I never once thought of money;' upon which I pulled out a guinea and gave him, for I had no change. 'Shall I,' said he, 'instead of bringing back the remainder, furnish you with wine as long as this lasts? you will have time enough I warrant you to drink it out.' 'Just as you please,' said I, in a very humble tone of voice, a little chagrined however at having to do with a man, whom I was obliged to thank for the favours I did him.

The wine came very seasonably, for I was just going to faint when they brought it me; this made me quite well again, and I felt nothing else but an extreme impatience to see the event of my informing Miss *Maddox* of my confinement. Sometimes the account of her fainting away gave me a great deal of uneasiness, fearing that it might disable her from doing any thing in my behalf, and I depended much more upon her, than upon all the other friends that she could have got to have interested themselves upon my account: on the other hand, her fainting away was a certain proof of the tenderness that she felt for me, and of the readiness with which she would have come to my assistance.

Three hours were already elapsed since the wine had been brought me, when they came and told me that two persons were waiting below, desirous to speak with me; that they did not chuse to come up, and that I had the liberty of going down to them. My heart beat excessively high at this; I followed the turnkey, who led me into a room where I found Miss *Maddox*, who embraced me almost drowned in tears. Just by her was a man dressed in mourning; but who he was I did not then know. 'Sir Andrew,' said she, 'what unlucky accident has been the occasion of your confinement? (here she embraced me) You need not be surprized, Sir,' turning to the person that came along with her, 'we were to have been married

‘married to-day?’ and then coming back to me, pray
 ‘what is the matter? what are you here for?’

I could not answer her question immediately; I
 was quite overcome with the sight of Miss *Maddox*,
 and therefore required time for my recovery. ‘Alas!’
 said I, ‘would you imagine that a court is the oc-
 casion of it? whilst I was in it the gate was shut;
 a couple of murders had been committed in one of
 the houses there; people immediately concluded
 from finding me there, that I had a hand in them,
 and accordingly placed me here.’ ‘How!’ said she,
 ‘my dear child, could your being in the court make
 you suspected of having a hand in two murders? pray
 explain yourself a little. Who was it that was mur-
 dered?’ I really know nothing of the matter,’ re-
 plied I; ‘I saw nothing but the sword, which I
 very unguardedly took up.’

‘This looks very odd indeed,’ said the gentleman
 in black, ‘what you have told us as yet, does not
 give us the least insight into the affair. Come, sit
 down and tell us the whole story from beginning to
 end. What is that court, and where is it situated?’
 ‘This,’ said I, ‘I assure you is all I know of the mat-
 ter.’ Upon which I began my recital from my go-
 ing out of the justice’s house to the court, which I
 before mentioned. ‘I did not know,’ said I, ‘who
 the murderers, or the persons wounded were, when
 they brought me before them, who owned too
 that they did not know me neither; this is all that
 I know of the matter for which I am now imprison-
 ed.’ ‘I am sadly afraid,’ said Miss *Maddox*, and
 then stopped short. ‘What,’ said she, resuming her
 speech, ‘What could they say to you, when the
 wounded people owned that they knew nothing of
 you?’ ‘Why they imagined,’ said I, ‘that I was
 the accomplice of the man that had wounded them;
 whose face I solemnly declare I had never seen.’

‘The bloody sword,’ said the gentleman in black,
 ‘is a very unhappy circumstance against you; howe-

‘ver,

ver, the account you have given me of the affair has suggested one observation to me. We heard below stairs that within these last two or three hours they had brought in a man for stabbing a couple of people in the street; now this might possibly be the man that you saw running across the court; if you will stay here a little, I will go and make a more particular enquiry into the affair.

Upon this he went out of the room. My dear Sir Andrew, said Miss Maddox as soon as he was gone, in what a miserable condition do I find you! I thought that when I first heard of your confinement, the concern it gave me would have killed me. But pray when you saw there was such a great disturbance why did not you go through some other street?

My dear cousin, said I, it was in order to have the pleasure of seeing you the sooner, that I took the nearest way to your house. How could I imagine that the going through that street would be so fatal to me? I bathed her hands with my tears while I was saying this, and she likewise cried with equal tenderness. Pray who is that person, continued I, that you have brought along with you, and whence came you at present? Alas! said she, I have been running about ever since I received Mrs. Amyand's note from you, in which so many proffers of friendship and kindness were made, that I thought her the properest person to apply to in my distress. She is a very good-natured lady. Had it been for her own son, she could not have taken more pains than she did; she was almost as much concerned at what had happened as I was. Do not make yourself uneasy about it, said she to me, the affair will soon be over; we have friends enough. Stay a little, and I will go and speak to the justice about it. She went immediately, and came back with a note directed to a justice of peace. I immediately carried it to him; he called one of his clerks, and after having talked with him some time

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in private, he ordered me to follow him to the prison and that he would get me the liberty of seeing you. Accordingly we came together to enquire into the reason of your confinement. Mrs. *Amyand* has promised to carry me in her coach where-ever I want to go.

The clerk, who during this conversation had been gone out of the room, just at this instant came in again. 'My conjecture was right,' said he, 'when I thought that the man who had been brought hither in the morning, was the murderer of the two persons on whose account you are now in goal. I have just been speaking to one of the men that stopped him, as he was making his escape without either hat or sword, pursued by a mob who saw him coming out of a house in the same street in which you saw all that bustle and disturbance. It was a good while before they were able to catch him, for he had run a great way; they have also brought in another man (say the people) from the same place, whom they strongly suspect to be an accomplice of his. By this accomplice in all probability the people mean you.'

'I am the person,' replied I, 'and this is an exact account of the manner in which I was taken up, which was in the court into which I entered without knowing any thing of the matter.' 'The prisoner,' replied the clerk, 'will be examined very soon, and if he appears not to know you, and to give the same account of the affair that you have given to us, as I do not doubt but he will, your discharge shall be made out immediately, and you will be at liberty to go where you please. You had better go home, madam, and make yourself easy; as for you, sir, it will be much better for you to stay here; I will take care that they shall bring you something to eat.' 'Alas!' said I, 'they did bring me something to eat in my miserable dunge-

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‘on above stairs, but I had no stomach to it, it was so musty: they desired me to eat, and left me.’

Miss *Maddox* and I embraced each other very tenderly. Let him want for nothing, said that good lady to the turnkey that was locking me up. They had been gone two or three minutes, and yet the jarring sound of the locks and bolts continued still in my ears: there is nothing so harsh and unpleasant as sounds of that kind; indeed I believe that they are much more disagreeable to the innocent than the guilty, since the former think the most of them, the latter having something of more consequence to attend to than to mind them.

In a few minutes after my dinner was brought me: the comparison of it with that which had before been given me, comforted me not a little; it seemed to me to be a change that foreboded good. I eat two wings of a chicken, and having drank three or four glasses of tolerable wine, I finished my dinner by eating some fruit that was set before me. I found myself in very good spirits after this hearty meal. Nourishment is certainly a most admirable thing in cases of misfortune or distress; it spreads a calm over one's whole frame, and it is almost impossible to be melancholy while the stomach is digesting. However I was very far from forgetting the situation I was in; I was continually thinking of it, but much more composedly than heretofore; yet at last my grief returned again.

I pass over a recital of every thing that happened from the time of my parting with Miss *Maddox* till my appearance before a justice of peace, who was accompanied by a man, who seemed to be taking down every thing that was said, and whose name and office I was then wholly unacquainted with: over against them sat a man as pale as ashes, together with several other persons whose depositions were then taking: soon after I was examined.

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The reader here must not expect an exact account of his examination, since I do not at this distance of time recollect the order in which each question was asked me. I shall only mention the main articles, namely that the man who was so remarkably pale, said that he knew nothing of me, and I said as much with respect to him: I then told my story, and that in so simple and artless a manner, that every one present were obliged to put their hands up to their mouths to hinder themselves from laughing.

When I had finished my account, I tell you over and over, said the prisoner, 'that I had no accomplice in this affair. I do not know,' continued he, 'whether it is not in my power to make some struggle for my life, if I thought it worth my while, but I am weary of it myself, and indeed do most justly deserve to lose it. I have killed my Mistress; I saw her expire; she died thro' fright at seeing me again, and called me her murderer with her dying breath: I have killed my friend, whose rival I was lately become; I killed them both in the excess of my passion; I am in despair! considering myself as a monster, I tremble to think only of the crimes that I have committed: I should have dispatched myself if I had not been prevented by the people who took hold of me: I am not worthy of having any time allowed me to recollect myself and repent of what I have done: take my life then immediately, and avenge the blood of those whom I have slain: I desire death as the greatest favour that can be bestowed on me: spare me then those bitter pangs of conscience, which are infinitely worse than death itself, and send this young man away, whom it is to no purpose to keep here any longer, whom I never saw in my life before I met him in that court, and whom I should undoubtedly have murdered, for fear he should know me again and betray me, if my sword had not slipped out of my hands: send him back, sir, I beseech you; I have

‘ have a great deal to reproach myself with upon his account.’

I shuddered a good deal upon hearing that he had formed a design to kill me ; which had it taken effect, would have been infinitely worse than the being confined in prison. Yet notwithstanding the confession that he had just been making, I could not help pitying the miserable wretch, whose looks carried in them marks of the utmost despair and horror.

Miss *Maddox* came to see me as soon as it was over, accompanied by the justice’s clerk, who left us alone for some time. You may easily imagine that those happy minutes were not lost on either side, but were spent in all that tenderness to which the soul in a manner feels itself naturally inclined, when just delivered from an imminent danger ; and indeed this was equally both our cases, for my life was in peril, and consequently Miss *Maddox* ran a hazard of losing me, which she looked upon as one of the greatest misfortunes that could befall her ; especially if she had lost me upon an ignominious account. She then gave me a relation of what she had done, and of the interest that Mrs. *Amyand* had made, as well with the justice as with the person that examined me. We blessed that good lady a thousand times over for the use she had been of to us in this affair, and for the readiness that she had shewn to do every thing that lay in her power. Miss *Maddox* launched out in praise of her piety. ‘ The good christian ! the good christian ! ’ would she often say in great raptures, and I as often secretly, for fear of giving my intended spouse offence ; though in truth there would have been no great shame in praising before my wife, the piety of a person who had cast such tender looks upon her husband, and whose reason for serving me in this affair did not proceed so much from piety as from some other motive, which we need not mention here, since the reader is already acquainted with it. Besides, I was in prison, and therefore scrupulous, unwilling to consider as piety, what

what was rather to be looked upon as an instigation of the devil. I could not help blushing a good deal all the while that Miss *Maddox* was praising Mrs. *Amyand*, nor indeed was I wholly blameless upon that account myself. Add to this, that I was ashamed to see that person so duped, who of all others deserved the least to be so. After having spent some time in recounting Mrs. *Amyand's* good offices, we then came to a detail of what had passed in my prison since I saw her last. People in high spirits are naturally talkative. I gave her a full account of every thing that the guilty man had said; with what honesty he had vindicated me from having the least hand in his black transactions; and that it was a great pity that he gave himself up to such irregular passions, since he seemed in the main to be a very honest man. We then proceeded to talk of ourselves, our love and marriage.

The reader may perhaps be inquisitive to know who this murderer was, and what was the cause of his committing so rash an action. As my memoirs are wrote to instruct as well as entertain, I shall ever think it my duty, throughout the course of them, even to digress a little for the sake of my reader's satisfaction. It was about a twelvemonth since an intimate friend of this unhappy wretch's fell in love with a young lady, by whom he was equally beloved. As his fortune was by no means equal to her's, her father would not give his consent to their being married; nay went so far as positively to forbid his daughter seeing her lover any more. Reduced to great shifts, they made use of the man (who afterwards killed them) to carry on a correspondence.

This fellow who was known at the house very well, but came there very seldom, fell in love with the young lady by seeing her often, and hearing her sigh and complain of the distress she was in. Indeed to give our own opinion of this matter, beauty is in its highest perfection when in distress, and he who has never seen it in that situation, has never beheld it
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SIR ANDREW THOMPSON. 23

in its height. But to go on; this man, whom each of them made use of as a confident, was richer than his friend, and talked frequently to the young lady of the violence of his passion. She at first (taking it in joke) diverted herself with it, but was extremely angry when she found that it was a serious matter, and told his friend of it, who accordingly reproached him for his base behaviour in the affair. This man at first seemed a good deal ashamed of what he had done, and to all outward appearance was extremely sorry for it, and promised not to intermeddle with them any more; but soon broke his promise, and behaved very ill towards his friend, who upon that refused to have any thing more to say to him. He carried his baseness so far as to propose himself for a son-in-law to the young lady's father, who would willingly have forced his daughter to consent to the match, but to no purpose.

The lovers now despairing, had recourse to some other means to write to, and see each other, with the same secrecy as they used before: an old woman, who had formerly been a servant to the young lady's mother, permitted them to meet at her house, which they used to do sometimes, in order to consult what measures were most adviseable to be taken for the future. The other man soon got scent of these private meetings, and being naturally of a jealous and revengeful temper, and one of those kind of men who, when they are once-enraged, are capable of committing the worst of villanies, he got them dodg'd one day as they were going to the widow's lodgings; went there immediately after them; surprized them just at the time that his friend was kissing the young lady's hand, and in the height of his passion wounded him deeply with his sword, which he was going to second with another thrust, when the young lady, who was willing to save her lover, threw herself upon his body, received the wound and immediately fainted away.

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It is needless to say any more, as the reader is already acquainted with what followed. To return, therefore, to my own particular story: the clerk came back and told me I should be at liberty on the morrow. Let us therefore pass on to the morrow, as an account of a prison must be dull and tedious.

Miss *Maddox* came for me at eleven o'clock the next morning; she did not come up, but sent me word that she was waiting for me below. I went down and found a coach: but whose coach! no other than Mrs. *Amyand's*, and that lady herself in it; and this she did in order to give a greater eclat to my deliverance, and summon more witnesses of my innocence. The honest zeal of this lady did not stop here. 'Before we drive to your house, Miss *Maddox*,' said she, 'I think it most adviseable to carry him into that part of the town, over against which he was taken up, and to shew him about there. It is very proper that they who saw him carried away, and who might perhaps recollect him, if they should see him again, should be convinced of his innocence; and perhaps,' said she, addressing herself to me, 'you may recollect the faces of some of those that surrounded you.'

'Undoubtedly,' said I, 'madam, for if there was no body else but the surgeon that lives over the way, and who was called in to take care of the deceased, I should be glad to see him, in order to convince him that I am an honest man than he imagines me to be.' Good God! said Miss *Maddox*, 'what an admirable thought that is of Mrs. *Amyand's*; indeed it is entirely owing to her that you have got free from this ugly accident, though she is so good as to attribute the whole to God's assistance.' At the mention of God, which Mrs. *Amyand*, I doubt not, thought was needless to be added, 'Let us leave off this conversation,' said she, interrupting. 'Pray when do you intend to be married?' 'to-night,' said Miss *Maddox*, 'if nothing hinders us.'

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Just at this instant we arrived at the street which had before been so fatal to me, and which we had given orders to the coachman to drive into. We stopped at the surgeon's house, the owner of which happened to be standing at the door: I observed that he looked upon me very attentively. 'Sir,' said I, 'do you remember me? do you know me again?' 'I believe I do,' said he, pulling off his hat very civilly, as to a man whom he saw riding in a very genteel equipage with two ladies, one of whom seemed to be a person of great quality. 'Yes, sir,' said he, 'I remember you perfectly well; I believe you are the person who was in that house the day before yesterday,' (pointing at the same time to that in which I had been taken up,) 'and who had a very unlucky-----.'

He hesitated at speaking the rest. 'Nay,' said I, 'finish what you have to say: I am the person that was taken up and carried to prison.' 'I did not dare to say so,' replied he, 'but I thought so the first moment that I saw you. To be sure then, sir,' continued he, 'you had no hand in what was laid to your charge.' 'No more than you had,' answered I; and then I explained to him the whole affair. 'I am extremely glad of it indeed,' said he; 'we were all saying, my neighbours, wife, self, children and servants, what can we trust to, if not to your face? I should be glad that they may have a sight of you, in order to convince them of your innocence.' He then called all his family. 'Come,' said he, 'look at this gentleman, do you know him again?'

'Indeed, father,' said one of his daughters, 'he is very like the person that was taken up over the way the other day.' 'He is so like,' said the wife, 'that it is the person I am sure,' 'Yes,' replied I, 'you have both guessed very right: I am the person. That is very odd indeed,' said the daughter; you had nothing to do then with the murder that was committed.' 'No indeed,' replied I, 'I should be

'very sorry to have any thing to do in any murder.' 'Truly,' said the wife, 'I saw a very great disturbance, but I hardly knew what was the matter.' 'As for that matter,' said the daughter, 'if ever any body look'd like an innocent man, you certainly did.' The mob began to gather round the coach. Mrs. *Amyand* permitted the scene to last as long as she thought it necessary to establish my reputation throughout the neighbourhood. I took leave of the surgeon and his family, having the comfort of hearing the acclamations of the people in my favour, and myself acquitted, even of the least suspicion of being guilty of what I had been accused of. Add to this the praises that I heard bestowed on each side, on my gentleman-like air and appearance, which put Miss *Maddox* into a very good humour, and induced her to look at me with an earnestness which she had never done before. I plainly perceived the great pleasure that she took in viewing me with so much attention, and that she congratulated herself on the discovery of so many amiable qualities in me. This contributed also to raise me in Mrs. *Amyand*'s esteem, who looked upon me every now and then with an unusual attention, and I doubt not, thought within herself that her taste could not be so very bad, since every body seemed to be of the same mind that she herself was.

We were very near Miss *Maddox*'s house, where Mrs. *Amyand* proposed to set us down, when we perceived at a little distance from us, the eldest Miss *Maddox* and the clergyman before-mentioned, talking seemingly with great earnestness. Our coach being prevented some time from going on, by reason of a cart that was before it, gave them an opportunity of seeing us.

Whenever I think of this incident, trifling as it was, I cannot help laughing at the recollection of the prodigious astonishment which seized them both upon the sight of us. Hast thou, gentle reader, seen a dispenser of life and death, vulgarly call'd a physician, in formal clothes, and still more formal countenance,
come

come strutting up the stairs, big with the important hope of a golden fee? and hast thou seen his face, on the report that his patient had slipped through his fingers, and found his cure in death, that general remedy? If thou hast, thou mayst, in some measure, form an idea of the surprize above-mentioned. They were so thunderstruck at our appearance, that they had not presence of mind enough to speak to us; which they would most undoubtedly have done, had they not been seized in that unaccountable manner.

In order, if possible, to increase their uneasiness, we appeared before them just at a time that was capable of humbling them most. Chance brought about a concurrence of accidents, seemingly on purpose to vex them the more. This was triumphing over them in a most glorious manner, and had it been premeditated, might justly have been called insolent; for just at the instant that we perceived them, we were all laughing very heartily at something ridiculous that I had just been saying; which, together with the triumphant manner in which Mrs. *Amyand* was conducting us, must surely have touched them very sensibly. We made our bow to them very civilly; they returned it indeed, but with evident marks of confusion, like people who did not know what they were doing, being stunned with the blow which they had just received.

They were just come from miss *Maddox's* house, which we knew as soon as we came home, and there our landlady told them that I was imprisoned, for she, having been present at the account that the turnkey gave Miss *Maddox*, could not bring herself to keep it a secret; and while she was pretending all the while to take our parts, was gratifying their ill-nature, by entertaining them with that piece of history which we were in hopes would have remained a secret, at least from them. You may judge of the hopes which they had drawn from thence of getting rid of me. 'In prison!' said they, 'Why what has he done? well, that is none of our business;

it is not upon the account of the affair that was laid before the justice, for he refused to give us any assistance in it: it must therefore be for some thing else.' And, indeed, I do not know but they might go so far as to suspect me of some notorious crimes. I am sure they hated me enough to think any thing of me; and people of that kind generally take their hatred of you as an infallible sign that you are good for nothing, owing perhaps to that natural fondness that every one has in general for his own opinion, and not a little to that vanity which makes him think it impossible for a person of his nice discernment to be mistaken. How then must it have damped their joy to see me in so prosperous and flourishing a condition, at a time when they imagined that I was pining in a gaol?

But let us leave them to their own confusion, and pass on to what happened when we arrived at Miss *Maddox's*. 'I will not go in,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, 'for I have a great deal of business to do; take the necessary previous steps to your being married as soon as you can; lose no time, and let Sir *Andrew* come and tell me as soon as the ceremony is over; for till that time I shall be very uneasy.' 'We will both come and let you know,' said Miss *Maddox*; 'that is the least that we can do.' 'No, no,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, giving me at the same time a very significant look, which she soon perceived that I understood the force of; 'it will be sufficient for Sir *Andrew* to come; you need not give yourself so much trouble.' And then she took her leave immediately.

'God forgive me,' said the landlady as soon as she saw me again; 'I really believe this is our good friend Sir *Andrew* that you have brought again to us.' 'You are in the right of it, madam,' said I, 'and God will forgive you for believing so; for I assure you you are not mistaken. Good-morrow to you Miss *Sally*,' said I, for she was in the room. 'You are welcome home again,' said she; 'my mother and I thought

‘thought that you had been lost’ ‘How lost?’ said the mother, ‘If you had not come home this morning I was going to send out all my friends and acquaintance this afternoon in search of you. Your sister and doctor *Hankey*,’ for that was the clergyman’s name that has been so often mentioned) ‘are but just gone out; they came to see you, madam,’ (turning to Miss *Maddox*) they will give you an account, I suppose, what a lecture I have read them. “The poor child is in prison,” said I to them, “though you know that as well as I do, since I doubt not but you are the cause of his being so; this is a very scandalous piece of behaviour of yours.” “In prison!” said both of them, “how long has he been there?” “how long!” replied I, “ever since you have been taking such pains to put him there.” They then went away without so much as my asking them to sit down.’

By this discourse of the landlady’s, it may easily be perceived that she was ignorant of the true cause of my imprisonment, and indeed Miss *Maddox* had taken care not to trust her with that secret; letting her believe that I had been put in by the interest of her sister. Had she but been acquainted with the affair, what a delightful story it would have been for her to have told! the whole neighbourhood would soon have been made acquainted with the adventure; she would have gone and told the story from house to house, in order to have the pleasure at the same time of saying how extremely concerned she was upon my account; whereas the keeping it a secret, if it did no other good, yet still it prevented the affair from being further known, which among people that were not acquainted with me, might have turned out to my disadvantage. Well, but tell me this, and tell me that, would she be saying every minute to me.

I invented a great number of circumstances, in order to amuse her; indeed I did not tell her a single one that was strictly true. ‘I have found out a clergyman,’ said she, ‘that will marry you by and by.

‘ if it is not too late, and if you intend being married to-day.’ ‘ Oh! by all means, madam, said Miss *Maddox*; ‘ we shall be extremely obliged to you if you will give him notice.’ ‘ I will go myself to his house by and by,’ said she; ‘ but in the mean while, as it is now time to go to dinner, will you sit down and eat a bit with me? I will in return sup with you to-night; and as for witnesses to your marriage, I will engage to get some that shall not be such proud coxcombs as the last were.’

I am tired with recounting all these minute particulars, and I doubt not but the reader is so too. Let us pass them over; suppose that we have got our witnesses and all ready, and that we set out for the church: at last the ceremony is finished; we are become man and wife in spite of every thing that the eldest Miss *Maddox* could do to the contrary, and notwithstanding all the fruitless endeavours of doctor *Hankey*, who cannot now expect to receive any more presents from Mrs. *Thompson*.

I have seen a great deal of love in the course of my life; that is to say I have seen a great deal of the show and outward force of love; but I verily think I never met with any affection that equalled my wife’s. A woman that is much conversant with the world, whether lively or tender, old or young, never loves in that manner, or in that degree. Nay, I would defy her even to imitate it; for in order to resemble Miss *Maddox*, (whom indeed I ought not now to call by that name) it is not sufficient to have a heart susceptible of tender impressions, and a violent affection possessing it, for even these will not do; and in short, put whatever you please into the heart of such a woman, you will at most make her lively and passionate, but she will never come up to Mrs. *Thompson*; and all the love that such a one can be capable of, would give you but a very imperfect idea of my wife’s affection. In order to love like her, thirty years devotion is required, and at the same time, want of resolution during all those years to be thoroughly

thoroughly devout. You must have resisted the temptation of thinking upon love, and been scrupulous about hearing or even looking upon men, to whom, nevertheless you had not the least aversion. To marry after thirty years spent in such a kind of life as that, and to find yourself at length, a wife, is too much; I may add, too, the wife of a man for whom you entertained the highest regard; This is still more; do all this, and you will then be another Miss *Maddox*, and I dare answer for it, that he who marries you will readily assent to the truth of my assertion, that such an affection does exceed all others, and is of a different kind from what he had ever met with before.

The reader may perhaps expect a particular description of it. I am sorry it is not in my power to gratify him, for I really do not know how I can possibly describe it. When a woman is in love, 'tis with a loving air that she tells you of it. Miss *Maddox* told me hers with a kind of devotion, but with such a devotion, as would have made any one that observed her, think that she was laying before me a case of conscience; all her transports were of that kind; and love, though it lost somewhat of its air, yet was fully compensated by the sentiment, which was exceeding lively, and yet surprizingly delicate. By this account, some idea may possibly be formed of the affection that I have been speaking of.

It was ten o'clock the next morning before we got up; indeed we did not go to bed till three, so that it was no very unreasonable hour. 'Sir Andrew, said she to me, about a quarter of an hour before we got up, 'I am possessed of between two and three hundred pounds a year; that is enough for us to live upon genteelly; however, it will be highly proper that you should fix upon some sum that you will think sufficient for your own private expences, and besides that, you may (as you possibly may want something to employ your time) do something that will encrease it.' 'Yes,' said I; 'but I cannot set about any thing immediately, having ne-

‘ver been brought up to any business or profession.’
 ‘Well,’ said she, ‘I know a counsellor not far off here,
 who will at my desire let his clerk instruct you in
 writing and accounts; and then we may look out
 for something that you will be able to do; are you
 willing that it should be so?’ ‘willing,’ said I; how
 can I be otherwise when you propose it?’ ‘why,
 indeed,’ said she, ‘all my proposals are for the fur-
 thering of your advantage; but now I think of it,
 you are greatly in want both of clothes and linen;
 I will go out this afternoon and buy you some.’

‘Now you are talking of dress,’ said I, ‘there is
 another trifle that you have forgot perhaps; I mean
 a sword, and then I shall be Sir *Andrew* compleat:
 there is nothing which shews a man to more advan-
 tage than the being well dressed, inasmuch as it
 puts him upon a level with whatever company he
 goes into.’ ‘Well,’ said she, ‘I will buy one
 this morning; there is a sword-cutler lives within
 a door or two of us, we need only send for him.
 Come,’ said she, ‘what else do you want? consider,
 and tell me.’

How kind was this! but at this time, indeed, her
 soul was so wrapt up in mine that she seemed to think,
 speak, and act only for me. If I had told her that I
 wanted to be a king, I dare say that she would have
 promised to buy me a crown.

Just at this instant the clock struck ten: our coffee
 was waiting for us at the door, and the landlady was
 desirous of being let in, with an intention I supposed
 of congratulating us on our marriage. I would wil-
 lingly have got up. ‘Stay, stay,’ said my wife, ‘you
 will be such a while a dressing, which puts me in
 mind that you want a nightgown.’ ‘Yes, yes,’ said
 I smiling, ‘I do want one.’ Upon this she got out of
 bed, slipped on a gown and let in the landlady, who, ac-
 cording to her usual custom, overwhelmed us with such
 a profusion of words, that it was some time before
 she would give us leave to put in a syllable. ‘Come,’
 said she to my wife, ‘let me salute you: ah! those
 dear,

‘ dear, languishing eyes! well, I hope your bed-fellow and you agreed.---Ay, ay, that smile tells me you did. Nay, I never doubted it.---A young rogue! I thought there would be good living with him. Wasn’t I right? come, come, Sir,’ said she to me, turn out, turn out, and leave your pillow; your wife is not there now, man, and it will be bed-time again by and by.’ ‘ I cannot,’ said I, ‘ while you are present, for I have no night-gown to put on.’ ‘ Fiddle-faddle,’ said she, ‘ dont stand upon such trifling ceremonies: however, if that is your only objection, I will go and fetch you one that is almost new; my poor husband never wore it above ten times in his life; when you have got it on, I shall think that I see him.’

Upon which she immediately went out, brought the night-gown and threw it on the bed. ‘ Take it,’ said she, ‘ you shall have it cheap, it is a very good one, and I heartily wish you well to wear it.’ ‘ Have you a mind for it?’ said my wife to me. ‘ By all means,’ said I; ‘ what is the price of it, at one word, for I do not love haggling?’ my wife and the landlady soon agreed upon the price; I paid for it with the money that I had remaining in my purse: we then drank our coffee: Mrs. *Thompson* told the landlady how much in want I was both of linen and clothes, and desired that she would accompany her in the afternoon to help to buy them.

However, chance ordered it otherwise with respect to my clothes. A taylor, who rented a garret of our landlady, came in about a quarter of an hour afterwards to bring her some money. ‘ Mr. *Simon*,’ said she to him, ‘ you are come in the very nick of time; there is a new customer for you; (pointing to me) we are going to buy some cloth by and by for the gentleman.’ Mr. *Simon* made his bow, and after looking at me with some attention, ‘ Faith,’ said he, it ‘ would be a greater pity to go and buy the cloth; I have now by me a new suit of clothes

‘ which I put a finishing hand to but yesterday; the person they were intended for is gone out of town, and could not stay till they were made, and has been so kind as to leave them upon my hands. I believe they will just fit you; so you will have an opportunity of having them much sooner than you would otherwise, and much cheaper than if you brought your cloth and had it made up. There is a coat, waistcoat and breeches, all of fine cloth and lined with good silk; the suit is compleat.’

The silk lining was a great temptation to me; it was a great piece of magnificence for one who had been used to wear nothing but coarse woollens. ‘ Well,’ said I, ‘ Mrs. *Thompson*, what do you say to it?’ ‘ Oh!’ said she, ‘ if it will fit you, I think you cannot possibly do better.’ ‘ It will fit him as well as if it had been made on purpose for him,’ said the taylor, who accordingly went to fetch it. He brought it and tryed it on; it fitted me much better than my old one did, and my heart fluttered considerably at the thought of my being dressed so finely. This bargain was not concluded so speedily as that of the nightgown was; but that was by no means my wife’s fault, to whom the landlady said: ‘ do not you trouble yourself about it, madam, I will manage this matter to your satisfaction. Come, Mr. *Simon*,’ said she to the taylor, ‘ what a lucky hit this is for you; you might probably have had these clothes lying on your hands this twelvemonth, if it had not been for this, for a proper shape was requisite to fit them; it seems as if this was sent from heaven on purpose for you. Search all *London* through, and I dare say you will not find another that they will fit; come, do not be so imposing; remember, *All Covet, all lose*.’ At last, after a great deal of work, our officious landlady concluded the bargain.

As soon as I had bought the clothes, my wife had a great desire to see me dressed in them. ‘ Come,’ said she, ‘ let us send for a laced hat and sword, and

‘ a new shirt ready made, that you may be handsome-ly equipped from head to foot.’ ‘ Just as you please,’ said I, with a joy that was by no means dissembled, but came from the bottom of my heart, almost as soon said as done. All the several tradesmen were sent for, our landlady always in the room, always buying and always haggling; so that before dinner I had the satisfaction to behold myself completely dressed.

I have already told you that I was tolerably handsome; but people must have looked upon me with great attention to have discovered it; for what is beauty concealed under mean cloathing? our eyes are so cheated by appearances, that we can never find out any beauty in a beggar; there are only here and there a few women of true taste, who never suffer themselves to be mistaken in this article, but can as soon discover it in a clown as in a beau. I had already met with one of those ladies; but dressed as I now was, any body that had eyes must have acknowledged me handsome.

‘ How delightfully he looks!’ said my wife, when I came out of the closet, in which I had been dressing myself. ‘ How then,’ said the landlady; ‘ you perceive that he is very beautiful, do you not?’ and this she said not in her usual talkative strain, but as if she thought very seriously of what she had been saying; she seemed to have laid aside her talent of gossiping for a few minutes. By the surprize with which she beheld me, I judged at that time that she envied my wife, nor will that appear wonderful since I had made a very great impression on her in my favour, even before I had the advantage of being well dressed.

‘ Well,’ said she, ‘ if ever I marry again, it shall be just such another man as you.’ ‘ Ay, but no-ther,’ said Sally, who just at that instant came into the room, ‘ that is not all, he must be as handsome, or else I would not care a pin for him.’ We then went

went to dinner, during all which time our landlady was full of her jokes. *Sally* said nothing to me with her tongue, but her eyes talked much more sensibly than her mother's; as to my wife, she neither looked at, nor thought of any body else but myself. Our witnesses, whom the landlady had invited to come to supper, came about five o'clock in the evening. 'Sir *Andrew*,' said my wife, 'I think it would not be a-miss if you were to go and pay your respects to Mrs. *Amyand*; you will have time enough, for we shall not sup 'till eight o'clock; present my compliments to her, and tell her that we will do ourselves the honour of waiting on her together to-morrow.'

'By all means,' said I, 'especially as she made it matter of request, that I would come.' My wife thought that she had put me in mind of Mrs. *Amyand*, whereas I should have put her in mind, if she had not prevented me by mentioning it first. 'Oh! how agreeable shall I now be to her!' did I say to myself. how far my conjecture was right or no, will be shown by the sequel. I went immediately to Mrs. *Amyand's*, found no body in the yard but one footman, who conducted me to her by a back staircase that I had never been up before in my life. One of her women, whom I saw at the top of it, told me that she would go and give her mistress notice; she came back presently, and shewed me into her lady's apartment.

I found her reading upon a settee, her head reclined upon one of her hands, and in an undress extremely neat; but at the same time very loose. Imagine to yourself a petticoat that does not reach down to the feet, and which even discovers part of a fine leg, which is a great part of a woman's beauty; one of her slippers was fallen down, and left an extremely small and pretty foot exposed to open view.

I did not lose a sight of this enchanting posture, nor was it lost upon me. I had never before that time felt the effect that a woman's pretty leg and foot can have upon one. Hitherto I had not con-

sidered

sidered them as essential to beauty, or as heightening it in the least. I had only seen women's faces and shapes; 'twas then I first learnt that they were women throughout: and yet even then I was a clown; for what is five or six months stay at *London* towards making one a gentleman, and polishing those manners which are so thoroughly ingrafted by custom and education? however, neither custom nor delicacy are wanting to have a right sense of some things, especially when they are placed in a proper point of view; we then only want our senses to perceive them, and those I had: so that that pretty leg and foot of Mrs. *Amyand's*, of which I had a full view, gave me a great deal of pleasure.

I have seen since that time objects of several kinds, which have always pleased me; but none which gave me so much satisfaction at once as that did; for, as I said before, it was the first time that they gave me any at all, and this is saying enough, since there is no pleasure but what loses a great deal of its relish by being frequently made use of. From the air with which she looked at me, I concluded that she did not expect to see me either so handsome or so well made. As I went in I made two or three bows, which I believe Mrs. *Amyand* did not mind whether they were well or ill made; she did not desire that I should have any acquired or artificial accomplishments, being fully satisfied with those which nature had given me, which she had an opportunity of seeing to much more advantage than she had ever done, by reason of my dress.

'What!' said she with a good deal of surprize, raising herself a little from her settee, 'is it you, Sir *Andrew*? I hardly knew you. You make an extremely handsome appearance indeed. Come hither, my dear child, come hither and sit down. How extremely your dress becomes you. What a shape! it is too fine for a man's! and what a handsome leg, to set off your person! Sir *Andrew*, you must

‘must learn to dance, by all means: come sit down, you cannot look better than you do at present; come,’ said she, taking me by the hand in order to make me sit down.

Whilst I was hesitating what to do, ‘sit down,’ said she; ‘come let me not see you stand any longer.’ And this she said in the tone of a person who was desirous that I should forget all the distance that there was between us, and live for the future without any ceremony. ‘Well,’ said she, ‘my dear child, I have been thinking of you, for I love you sincerely,’ and this was spoke with a look that signified the manner in which she loved me. ‘Yes,’ said she again, ‘I do love, and am very desirous that you should love me too; do you hear me?’ alas! fair lady,’ said I, with a mixture of joy and gratitude; ‘I shall love you too well, I am afraid, if you do not take care.’

Scarce had I said this when I seized hold of her hand, which she left wholly to me, and kissed it with an excess of transport. She remained a moment or two silent, being contented with seeing my extravagant rapture. I could hear her sigh very plainly. ‘Speak then,’ said she, ‘do you really love me?’ (bending her head down upon her hand) and why are you afraid of loving me too well? tell me what it is that you mean by that expression?’ ‘I mean,’ said I, ‘that you are so handsome and lovely, that there is no such thing as looking at you without loving you, and I am afraid that I shall entertain a passion for you, which does by no means become one in my situation.’ ‘Very well,’ said she, one would almost imagine that you were courting me.’ ‘Then they would say the truth,’ replied I; ‘for I assure you I cannot help it by any means.’ ‘Speak softly,’ said she, ‘for perhaps my woman is in the next room. Alas! my dear child, what is it that you have been saying to me? You love me then.’ ‘Yes,’ said I, ‘clown as I am, I own that I am in love with you.’ ‘Just as you please,’ said she, sighing, ‘but you are very
‘young

‘young surely; I am afraid of trusting myself to you; come a little nearer, that we may talk more softly together.’

I have forgot to inform the reader, that during this conversation, she had placed herself again in that posture in which I had found her at first, all along with one slipper off and part of her leg exposed to view; sometimes less, sometimes more so, according to the different attitudes that she put herself into upon the settee. The frequent looks that I cast towards her feet did not escape. At last said I, ‘what a little delicate foot you have got there, madam!’ putting my chair a little nearer, for I became insensibly familiar. ‘Let my foot alone,’ said she, ‘and give me my slipper; we must talk a little farther of what you have been saying to me, and see what we can do with that love which you pretend to have for me.’ ‘Is my loving you then a misfortune?’ said I. ‘And are you angry with me upon that account?’ ‘no indeed I am not,’ said she, ‘it has, so far from making me angry, effected me very sensibly, for you are extremely handsome and agreeable to me.’

‘Alas! madam,’ said I, ‘what is my beauty in comparison of yours? one of your little fingers is worth every thing that can be pointed out in me: every thing is remarkable in you: look at that arm! that shape! and such eyes as I never saw any one have before!’ and upon that, mine viewed her all over with a great deal of attention. ‘Did you not perceive,’ continued I, ‘how stedfastly I beheld you the first time that I ever saw you in my life? I gazed with admiration on your beauty! ah! madam, if you knew the pleasure that I felt at the thought of coming here, and how impatiently I desired to kiss that hand, when you stretched it out the other day to give me the note—’

‘Oh! be silent, be silent,’ said she, putting her hand upon my mouth, to hinder me from speaking; ‘I cannot hear you without emotion.’ Upon which she threw herself

herself back upon the settee, blushing a good deal, which made me do so too. We were in this situation when at last she said, 'Hear what I have got to say to you; you see that we are liable to be interrupted here every minute, so that this is by no means a proper place for seeing each other any more; for I see you have not sufficient discretion.' A deep sigh hindered her from saying any more. 'You are married, I suppose, by this time,' continued she after some pause; 'well, tell me how do you like your wife? could you love me as well as you do her? ah! how would I love you were I in her situation?' 'oh!' said I, 'how glad should I be of the exchange!' 'is it true?' said she; 'however let us talk no more of this; you are too near me, get a little farther back, I am always afraid of being surprized: I had got something to say to you, but talking of your marriage has put it out of my head again. We should have been much more at liberty in my closet. I sit there very often, but I did not expect that you would come this evening. However let us go in there, and I will give you those papers that I spoke to you about the other day? will you go in?'

She then got up, and after some short time said: 'no, I think we wont neither, for if my woman should come in and find that we were not here, how does one know what construction she would put upon my behaviour. And yet,' said she, 'I should be very glad to have those papers; however there is no such thing as getting them to-day.' She then sat down upon the settee. 'You will not favour me then,' said I, 'with a sight of your feet any longer.' She smiled at what I had been saying, and stroked my face gently with her hand. Let us talk of something else,' said she; you say you love me; I forgive you for it; but suppose I was to fall in love with you which is far from being impossible, tell me could you keep it a secret?'

'My dear lady,' said I, 'who do you think I would betray

betray you to? I must be very abandoned indeed to do such a thing as that. Do not I know very well, that such a behaviour as this is by no means proper towards a lady of your rank and quality, who confer fifty thousand more favours upon me than I deserve? besides, do not I know very well the reputation for piety that you have in the world; and that, therefore, stories of this kind must not be told of you, of all persons?' 'no, no,' said she, blushing; 'I am not so pious in reality as people imagine.' 'Indeed,' said I, 'whether you are or no, I love you equally; that does not hinder me from giving you my heart. We are what we are, and in my opinion, the world has nothing to do with our private behaviour. There are no angels upon earth.'

'What you say,' replied she, 'is very true; every body has their particular weaknesses.' 'Undoubtedly,' said I, madam; if you are favourably inclined towards your humble servant, it would be no such great wonder. It is true indeed I am married, but that is neither here nor there; I was not when you first saw me, and if I have taken a wife since that time, that is not your fault, you did not oblige me to have her; it would be much worse indeed if we were both of us married; whereas you are not.' 'I should explain myself,' replied she, 'if I did not think it proper to be upon the reserve; for you are the most dangerous young man that I know. But to return; I told you that you ought to be very discreet, and I perceive that you now comprehend the great use it will be of. The manner in which I live, the character that I bear in the world, your gratitude for the assistance that I have hitherto afforded, and which hereafter I shall still afford you, are so many additional motives to it. If ever you were to mention the least syllable of what has happened you would infallibly ruin me. Remember that, I beseech you: let us
' now

“ now consult how you may contrive to see me now
“ and then. If you continue your visits to me at this
“ place, it might probably give great room for cen-
“ sure; for under what pretence could you possibly
“ come? I am of some quality, you are not there-
“ fore in a situation to make me frequent visits: peo-
“ ple would most certainly suspect that I was in love
“ with you; your youth and beauty would serve to
“ strengthen their suspicions, and this is what we must
“ take the utmost care to avoid. I have thought,
“ however, of the following scheme:

“ There lives in a certain street, the name of which
“ I have forgot, an old woman, whose husband has
“ been dead these six or seven months; she lies un-
“ der great obligations to me, she lodges at a chand-
“ ler’s shop, her name is *Baldwin*; come,” said she,
“ write down her name: Oh! now I remember, she
“ lives in *Air-street* near *Piccadilly*.” I wrote down
her name, and as soon as I had done, continued Mrs.
Amyand: “ she is a woman that I can do what I will
“ with. I will send to-morrow morning to desire to
“ speak with her: we will meet at her house for the
“ future: It is a very by-street, and is very conve-
“ nient; she is the only person in the whole house;
“ There is a little garden belonging to it, by which
“ one may go in and out very privately; the back-
“ door opens into a narrow, unfrequented lane: I
“ will always have my coach wait for me in that street,
“ and will let myself into the garden by a key that
“ I will get for that purpose: as to what my own ser-
“ vants will think of it, I do not care a straw; they
“ have been used to carry me into all parts of the
“ town, in order to relieve poor objects, which is fre-
“ quently done by myself and two or three more la-
“ dies of my acquaintance: indeed I have very fre-
“ quently gone by myself, either to comfort sick peo-
“ ple, or to visit poor families: this they know very
“ well, and will easily believe that I am going to Mrs.
“ *Baldwin*’s upon some such account as that. Could
“ you

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'you meet me there to-morrow at five o'clock in the afternoon? by that time I shall have seen the woman, and taken all the previous steps that are necessary.

'I will not fail being at the place appointed,' said I; 'I am only sorry that it is not to be immediately; there will then be no maid to listen, and to hinder you from getting at the papers that you want.' 'There will not, as you observe,' said she smiling; 'we may then talk as loud as we please; however there is one thing that comes into my mind. *Air-street* is a great way from your house; you will want a coach to convey you thither, and that in time will prove a considerable expence.' As to the expence of it,' said I, 'my legs are able to carry me well enough.' 'No, no,' said she, 'Child, it would be too far for you to walk; you would be quite fatigued.' And while she was saying this, she pulled out of a box, a purse, ordinary enough, but quite full. 'Here,' said she, 'is something to pay your coach-hire; when you have laid out that I will give you some more.' 'Pray,' said I, blushing, 'put up your purse again; I am quite ashamed to take it.'

What was more surprizing than this was, I told the truth; for notwithstanding the vanity that I had, there was intermingled with it some confusion, and no small share of that neither. I was extremely glad to find that the money was offered me: yet I was ashamed to take it. At last, however, I yielded to the pressing solicitations that she made me to accept of it, and after having told her two or three times, that I cost her too dearly, and that my heart was not worth buying, I took it.

'Well,' said she, as she was shutting up the box again, 'the only reason of my not taking you into the closet, is that we may not give room for people to talk; we shall see one another henceforward, without so much restraint as we now lie under; but
' remember

‘remember it must be with equal discretion. I beseech you not to abuse the confidence that I have reposed in you. I do not understand artifice at all.’ Nor I either, I assure you, madam,’ said I, ‘the only intention of my going, is to have the pleasure of your conversation; you may depend upon it, therefore, that I will not do any thing that shall give you the least uneasiness: All my design is to give you as much satisfaction as I possibly can: I love you here, I shall love you at Mrs. Baldwin’s; in short, wherever you are, the case will be the same.’ ‘There is no harm at all in that,’ said she; ‘I do not forbid your loving me, but I am willing to have nothing that I can reproach myself with; this is all that I mean. I have got one thing more to say to you, I have wrote a letter to lady ——— in your behalf, of which you shall be the bearer yourself, lord ———, her brother-in law, is one of the lords of the treasury; his sister’s recommendation, I know, will have great weight with him: I have desired her either to introduce you to him, or to write to him in favour of you, to desire him to give you some place or other, and put you in a way of rising in the world.’

She then took up a letter that lay upon the table, and gave it me, which she had scarce done, before a footman came in and gave notice that a visitor was coming; it proved to be no less than lady ———, to whom this letter was directed. I soon saw a very fat woman come stalking into the room, seeming naturally of a gay disposition, whose portraiture (since I happened to fall into her company) I will present the reader with.

Lady ——— might be three or four years younger than Mrs. Amyand: I fancy she had been pretty in the former part of her life; her beauty was indeed worn off, but there still remained a certain freeness and openness in her countenance, which rendered her very agreeable to look at; she did not move about with
that

that weight which usually accompanies the motions of fat people; she walked with a strength which might very easily pass for lissomeness; add to this a haleness and look of full health, which gave one great pleasure to see; which, as it proceeded from temperance, so it shewed that she was capable of bearing a great deal of fatigue.

There are hardly any women wholly without some airs, approaching very nearly to coquetry: however, lady ——— was an exception to this. It was even one of her recommendations that she had nothing of that kind about her, and did not seem so much as to think of it. She had a very fine hand, tho' she knew nothing of the matter; if she had had an ugly one, she would have been equally ignorant of it: She never imagined herself capable of inspiring love, though she herself was extremely susceptible of tender impressions. Other women, by their looks, tell you that they insist on being adored, and in a manner command respect; whereas this lady informed you, in the softest and most engaging manner, of her being in love, and desired your approbation of her passion; nay she would go so far as to forget to ask you whether you loved her or no, provided you counterfeited the lover.

The result of all that I have been saying of her amounts to this, that her behaviour was sometimes unbecoming, but never coquettish. Whenever you said or did any thing that pleased her, her neck was stretched out, and her bosom exposed to your view, a thousand different ways; and this, not so much to try the situation of your heart, as it was meant to be a declaration of your having touched hers: lady ——— liked good living very well; at table was rather free than bold, rather a libertine than tender; she loved every body, and yet was no body's particular friend; she behaved towards all in the same manner, rich or poor it was all alike to her; she neither esteemed the
high

high rank of the one, nor despised the low condition of the other.

I will give one more particular stroke of her character, and then have done with her. If you told her either that you were merry or sad, that you had such and such hopes, or such and such misfortunes that had befallen you, she entered into your situation only because you said it, and not on account of the thing itself; she wept only because you did, and not because you had any reason to weep; concerned herself for you, without interesting herself much in your affairs, without so much as knowing that she herself acted with unconcern. If you told her that her near relation or dearest friend was dead, and told it her in an indifferent manner, she would answer you with the same indifference; but had you told her with a very melancholy air that it was too true, she would then have lamented it as one of the worst misfortunes that could possibly have befallen her. In short, she was a woman that had her sensations, but no sentiments, and yet was reckoned one of the best kind of women in the world, because her sensations passed off very frequently for sentiments, and did her as much credit as these could have done, had she possessed a very large share of them.

This character, however particular and out of the way as it may seem, is yet far from being an uncommon one; it is the character of a number of those who are called good sort of people. It was not from my acquaintance with the lady at this time, that I am able to furnish out so many particulars of her character; but I met her several years afterwards, and it was during my acquaintance with her then, that I am enabled to make the foregoing observations.

But to return. 'Good lord!' said lady—, 'how happy am I in finding you at home, Mrs. Amyand! I was afraid you would have been gone out; it is a great while ago since we have seen each other; pray how do you do?' she then made a curtsy to me, as
I appeared

I appeared by my dress to be a man of fashion, and during that time, I observed that she looked at me with a good deal of attention. After the first civilities were over, Mrs. *Amyand* complimented lady — on her looking so well. ‘Yes,’ said she, ‘I am very well, my constitution is remarkably strong; I wish my sister-in-law’s was equally good: I am now going to see her; the poor creature sent me word the day before yesterday, that she was extremely ill.’ ‘I really did not know any thing of the matter,’ said Mrs. *Amyand*; ‘however, I suppose it is only some slight indisposition: you know she is very tender.’ ‘Oh! indeed,’ said lady —, ‘I am quite of your opinion; I think that no great matter ails her.’

While they were talking in this manner I found myself greatly embarrassed; however, it went off, and I recollected myself by degrees; neither should I have been so at all, had I not been apprehensive that I really was so.

I had in my hurry, on the lady’s coming in, taken up Mrs. *Amyand*’s snuff-box: I felt it in my pocket; in order, therefore, to keep my hands employed, I opened it, and took some snuff. Scarce had I opened it when lady —, who was frequently looking at me, and in such a manner too, that her meaning was too plain to be mistaken, said: ‘oh, sir! I perceive you take snuff; I should be obliged to you for a pinch; I have forgot my snuff-box.’ Upon that I got up, and offered her some. As I was stooping down, in order that she might take it more conveniently, and as by this motion my head was very near hers, she took the advantage of the nearness of my situation, by looking at me very attentively; and while she was taking snuff, lifted up her eyes without any ceremony, and fixed them upon me so steadily that she put me to the blush. ‘You are very young, sir,’ said she, ‘to accustom yourself to snuff already; you will be very sorry for it some time or other; there

‘ is nothing so inconvenient. I tell every body of my acquaintance so ; and more especially young people ; for to be sure, sir, you cannot be twenty years of age yet.’

‘ I shall soon be twenty, Madam,’ said I, going back as far as my chair. What a charming age is that,’ replied she. ‘ Yes,’ said Mrs. *Amyand* ; ‘ however he must not trifle away his time now, for he has no fortune of his own ; he has not been in town above five or six months. I would willingly, if I could, find out some employment for him.’ ‘ Yes,’ answered lady ———, ‘ that will do very well : the gentleman will please every body that sees him : I foretel that he will marry very happily.’ ‘ Alas ! madam,’ said Mrs. *Amyand*, ‘ that is already over ; he has lately married Miss *Maddox*, a lady who has between two and three hundred a year.’ ‘ Oh ! Miss *Maddox* !’ replied lady ——— ; ‘ I have just heard of that match, at a lady’s where I have been visiting.’

At this Mrs. *Amyand* and myself blushed a good deal ; but to tell you the reason why the former did so is out of my power, unless, indeed, it was, as she thought that lady ——— had enquired into my character, and then the finding us *tete a tete*. Besides that, she was in love with me, and this was inconsistent with the character of a devotee that she had to support in the world. All these considerations together might tend to the throwing her into some little confusion. As for myself, there was nothing at all surprising in my blushing. My story, which lady ——— said she had just been informed of, was of a clown, of a footman, met upon the parade ; it was out of this footman’s snuff-box that she had just been taking some snuff ; and this was the gentleman to whom it, had been said that he was not yet twenty years of age.

You may judge then whether it was worth while or no to hold a conversation with such a person as I was, and if lady ——— had not very good reason to laugh

laugh at my being so disguised by my dress. However, in the main, I had nothing to fear, as this lady was one that would very easily overlook these several particulars; for she never saw any thing but what was just before her, making no reflections at all upon the past. I was very well dressed, she found me in company with Mrs. *Amyand*; nothing more need have been said to her to recommend me; add to all this, my comely person, for which, by the by, she seemed to have an uncommon liking, so that continuing her conversation, with the same fluency and freedom as she did at first, 'oh! then this is the gentleman that is married to Miss *Maddox*; that devious woman: This, sir, is but lately done, as I imagine, you have not been married above a day or two.'

'You are in the right, madam,' said I, a little recovered from my confusion, since I perceived that there was no reason to be at all concerned in her company; 'I was married yesterday.' So much the better, said she; 'she is a little old indeed, but she has not lost her charms. Truly,' said she, turning towards Mrs. *Amyand*, 'I was told that her husband was very handsome, and I find that people have not been mistaken. If I knew the lady I would go and congratulate her upon it. She has made a very good choice indeed. Pray may I ask what is her name at present?' '*Thompson*,' said Mrs. *Amyand* for me; 'and her husband's father is a very good sort of man; he is a farmer in the country, has a large family of children, and sent up this to town, to find out some employment for himself. In short the whole family are very honest, good sort of people.' 'Oh! undoubtedly,' said lady —: 'what, do they live altogether in the country? A gentleman farmer is a very respectable person; no objection can possibly be made as to his family.'

'I was the person,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, that brought this match to a conclusion.' 'Was you indeed, madam?' said lady —: 'Mrs. *Thompson* lies

' under great obligations to you. I have a great opi-
 ' nion of the gentleman, even by looking upon him.
 ' A little more of your snuff, sir, if you please. Why,
 ' Mr. *Thompson*, you are very young indeed to mar-
 ' ry, you could not fail of having done it much to
 ' your advantage some time or other; however you
 ' will be much more at your liberty in *London*, and
 ' less burthenfome to your family. Madam,' conti-
 ' nued she, addressing herself to Mrs. *Amyand*, ' you
 ' do not want for friends; it is in your power to push
 ' him in the world.' That is just what I was think-
 ' ing of,' said the other; ' nay I assure you, just as
 ' you came in I had given that gentleman a letter for
 ' you, in which I desired you would introduce him
 ' to your brother-in-law, who can be of great service
 ' to him if he pleases.' ' With all my heart,' said
 ' lady —; ' yes, my brother-in-law, if I have a-
 ' ny interest with him, shall provide for you; I ne-
 ' ver once thought of it; he is at a little box of his,
 ' about ten miles off, just at present, where he will
 ' stay this day or two; would you have me write to
 ' him? it is not a great way to my house, I will go
 ' and write the letter, and Mr. *Thompson* shall carry
 ' it to him to-morrow. Indeed, sir,' said she getting
 ' up, ' I am extremely glad that Mrs. *Amyand*
 ' thought of me upon this occasion; but let us be
 ' going, for I have a number of other visits to make,
 ' therefore let us lose no time. Farewel, madam;
 ' my visit has been short, but you see the reason of
 ' my going.'

She then took her leave of Mrs. *Amyand*, leaned
 upon my arm without the least ceremony, took me
 away, made me get into her coach, called me some-
 times sir, and sometimes my dear child, still displaying
 her bosom, and talked as familiarly as if I had been
 acquainted with her ten years. When we arrived at
 her house, ' sit down,' said she to me, as soon as we
 were got into one of the apartments; ' I will only
 ' write a line or two to my brother-in-law, which,
 ' however,

‘however, shall be very strong in your behalf.’ And indeed she wrote her letter in a minute. Here,’ said she, giving it me, ‘you will meet with a very good reception upon my account. I have desired him to give you some place in *London*; for it will be very proper that you should stay here, in order to cultivate your friends, and enlarge your acquaintance. It would be a great pity to send you into the country; you would be quite buried there, and here we are very glad to see you. I am not willing that we should be at such a great distance from each other; what do you say to it, Mr. *Thompson*, should you like to be near me?’

‘It would give me great pleasure,’ said I, ‘and do me great honour besides.’ ‘Oh! as to honour,’ said she, ‘you need say nothing about it; you see that I do not stand upon the least ceremony, especially with people whom I love, and who are so amiable, as you are. The first man that I ever liked, was the very picture of you: I think that I see him now: he is never out of my mind. I was very familiar with him: this is my way, and I have had thoughts of using you in the same manner: should that be the case, should you be sorry for it? would you have me behave to you in the same manner that I did to him?’ advancing her bosom, at the same time that I was very attentively looking at it, which confused me a good deal, and hindered me from giving her any answer. She took notice of it, and for some time stood silent, looking at me all the while very steadfastly.

‘Well then,’ said she smiling, ‘what are you thinking of?’ ‘I was thinking of you, madam,’ said I in a very low voice, my eyes still fixed upon her bosom. ‘Of me! Mr. *Thompson*,’ said she, ‘do you tell me the truth? do you perceive that I am much inclined to favour you? indeed that is not very difficult to discover: if you doubt of it, it is not my fault I am sure: you see I am free and open, and

‘ I like that people should be the same with me: hear me; what eyes there are! and yet, notwithstanding those eyes, he is afraid to open his mouth. Mr. *Thompson*, I have one piece of advice to give you, that will, if attended to, prove of infinite service to you. You have not been long out of the country, and have brought with you an air of bashfulness, which does not at all become one of your age. So agreeable a man as you are, ought to put on a air of assurance, especially in town: what deficiency are you sensible of, that you want this qualification? who should have it, if you have it not? you who are so charming?’ and this she said in so soft and flattering a way, that I began to take great pleasure in her flattery; but just at this instant we heard a coach come into the court-yard.

‘ Here is some company coming,’ said she; ‘ put up your letter: will you come and see me again soon?’ ‘ Yes, madam,’ said I, ‘ as soon as ever I have delivered your letter.’ ‘ Adieu then,’ said she, holding out her hand, which I kissed with great freedom; ‘ be convinced another time that I love you. I am extremely sorry that I did not order my people to deny me: I should not have stirred out perhaps, and we would have spent the evening together; however we shall see one another again very soon: do not fail coming, I shall certainly expect you.’ ‘ What time is most convenient for me to come?’ said I. ‘ Any time that you please,’ replied she; ‘ indeed you will be surer of finding me at home in a morning. Farewell,’ said she, chucking me under the chin; ‘ be left upon the reserve with me for the future.’

She had scarce done speaking when a footman came in and told her that there were three people waiting for her in her dining-room: I went out while she passed into another apartment to her company. My affairs were now in a pretty comfortable situation; my successes were so quick one upon another, that they almost

almost turned my head. Only imagine what it must be for such a young country fellow as I was, who within the space of two days was married to a rich woman, and became the lover of two persons of quality; and besides this the great alteration that had taken place in my dress; the being called sir, who had never been used to any other name than *Andrew*, ten or twelve days before the amorous ogles of those two ladies, and above all the pleasing, though impure artifice that Mrs. *Amyand* had made use of to seduce me: that leg, which was discovered to so much advantage; those soft white hands, which had been in a manner given up to me to do what I would with: these were sufficient allurements to open my heart: what a school of softness, pleasure, corruption, and I may add too of refinement! for the soul refines in proportion to its being corrupted. Add to this, that I was hurried away by vanity: I thought myself something very extraordinary: I had never known, hitherto, what it was to live well, and from that day forward I hardly knew myself; so improved was I by this short education and experience.

I went home swollen up with vanity, but with a kind of vanity that made me gay, and not proud or ridiculous. My self-love has always been confined within the bounds of civility; having never been so mild or tractable, as when I was highest in my own esteem and approbation. Mrs. *Thompson* had never seen me in such good humour and spirits as I was in when I returned home. It was late, and they staid supper for me: for the reader must remember that we had invired our landlady and her daughter, and the persons that we made use of as witnesses of our marriage.

I cannot describe the extraordinary civility that I shewed to my guests, nor with what alacrity I desired them to be merry. Our two witnesses were a little thick-headed, and found me so alert in comparison of themselves, and so gallant in the continual compliments

ments and civilities that I was paying them, that notwithstanding all the mirth that I endeavoured to excite in them, they were a good deal upon the reserve the whole evening. I even astonished our landlady, who, though she was usually such a gossip, took more care of what she said than usual: my praises were the common topic of conversation; praises that they endeavoured to turn as politely as they could, so that I perceived that my genteel behaviour had increased their respect for me considerably: and indeed to what else could this alteration in me be owing, but to my being in company with the above mentioned ladies; which indeed gave me an air of much greater consequence than I ever had before. The truth, however, is that I found myself quite another creature than I was before, and that I considered my guests as people that were unfit for me to keep company with, but to whom it was highly proper that I should suit myself for the present.

I will pass over the conversation that passed during supper. Sally gave me frequent looks: I took upon me to be the wit of the table, but such a wit that I never lost sight of good manners. I appeared so delightful to Mrs. Thompson, that she appeared extremely impatient, pulled out her watch two or three times, and gave the guests several broad hints that it was time for them to be going.

At last they got up, took their leave, and left me and my wife alone together; and then without further ceremony, under pretence of being fatigued, my wife went to bed and immediately said, to me, 'come, Sir Andrew, come to bed, for 'tis very late.' I understood very well what she meant, and accordingly I prepared to follow her. I have already said that my wife was handsome; but besides, my heart was so full of tender impressions, and I had been made love to so much that day, that I was now willing to be as morous in my turn; to which may be added another consideration, namely, that I was with a woman who

desired

desired nothing more than to listen to my transports. I was willing while I was undressing myself, to give her an account of the transactions of the day; I therefore told her of Mrs. *Amyand's* favourable intentions, of lady — coming in while I was there, of her giving me the letter, which I intended to carry the next day; but I found this was an unseasonable time, and all I could get out of her was only a few monosyllables, such as ay, ay, say you so? well, well; but come we'll talk of that here. Accordingly I went to bed, when farewell my story, which I forgot to pursue, and which my dear wife never once reminded me of. How real, how fervent were her tenderesses to me! but I have already given her character; and have only to add, that no woman, devoted to piety as she was, ever made a more passionate use of the privilege granted her by marriage, of shewing her chaste affection, than she did. I have been witness to the moments, when she has cryed, 'oh! the pleasure of frustrating the attempts of the devil, and of being able, without sin, to be as happy as sinners!'

At length we fell asleep, and the next morning I resumed my story, when she praised Mrs. *Amyand* and lady — for her kindness. We then got up and went out together, and while I took coach to go into the country, she went to church to pray for my successful journey. I went to the place where the coach put up, and found one with four horses; three places were already taken in it, and I made up the fourth. I had for my companions, an old officer, who was very sensible and entertaining, a tall withered old man, who seemed very much disturbed, and whom we soon found was a counsellor; and a very well looking young man. The officer and he looked at each other, as persons that thought they had seen one another before, but did not remember where; at last they recollected themselves, and remembered that they had dined together.

As I was not now in company with such people

as our landlady, or that were in love with me, I took a great deal of care of what I said, and endeavoured not to betray the least mark of my country education, insomuch that I spoke but seldom, listening very attentively to every thing that was said. We hardly perceive that a man is silent when he listens with attention; at least we always imagine that he is going to say something, and hearing is almost the same thing as answering. From time to time I used to throw in a word or two, which I contrived to be always suitable to what I observed was the general opinion of the company.

The officer engrossed the conversation the most: the air of an old warrior, his age, and the easy manner in which he spoke, tamed the lawyer insensibly, who was naturally inclined to silence, and thought more than he spoke. I do not know how the subject came to be introduced, but the fact I remember very well. The officer was giving the young man an account of a woman that was suing her husband for a separate maintenance. This matter seemed to concern the lawyer a good deal, who, after having looked at the officer two or three times, and liking his appearance probably very well, joined in the conversation, and that so heartily, and from one invective against women to another, he by degrees owned that he was in the same situation as the man that the officer was speaking of, and that he was now suing his wife.

The officer immediately left off his story in order to hear the lawyer's which was more interesting; and in this he acted very right, since by so doing he preferred the original to a copy. 'Are you suing your wife indeed?' said the young man to him; 'It is a very melancholy affair indeed; pray what was the occasion of it?' 'the reason?' replied the lawyer, 'why, is it any such hard matter to quarrel with one's wife? to be married, is to be in a continual state of warfare; and every husband may be considered

dered as pleading; for either he defends himself or attacks her. Sometimes indeed, the suit does not go beyond the house, and sometimes it does, which is my case at present.

‘I never would be married,’ said the officer, ‘I have had several opportunities of marrying into very good families, but I always refused them; I do not know whether I acted well or ill in so doing, but hitherto, I have never repented it.’ ‘How happy you are!’ said the lawyer; ‘I wish to God, I was in your situation: I determined as well as you to keep myself single; nay, refused many better matches than that which I accepted of at last. I do not know how it came about, for I had no great liking to her, and yet I married her.’ ‘I suppose she had a great deal of money,’ said the young gentleman. ‘No,’ said the lawyer, ‘she was neither rich nor young: she was between two and three and thirty, and I was forty: I had engaged myself in a law-suit with a nephew of mine, as great a rogue as lives unhanged, whom I have not done with yet; nor will I have done with him while I have a sixpence remaining in the world.’

But, this is another story; I will give you an account of that by and by. My she-devil (I am talking of my wife) was a relation of one of the Judges; I was acquainted with her, and used to go to her to desire him to interest himself in the affair; and as one visit draws on another, I at last came to go there every day: I did not know why, but I had got a custom of going there: she had some money, which I stood a good deal in need of just at that time. The common report was that we were going to be married, even before we had so much as thought of it ourselves: we laughed at it; there was a necessity, however, of lessening the frequency of my visits, that I might not give room for such report any longer. Well, but, said I, I am in love with you; will you marry me? she

made me no determinate answer. I used to go every day in this manner, being in love without so much as suspecting that I was so in reality: I never saw any thing equal to that villainous love which comes by custom, and gives no sort of notice of its approach: indeed it puts me into a passion every time I think of it.

In about a fortnight afterwards, a widower in years took it into his head to court my handsome wife that is now, whom I call handsome by way of jest only, since she had one of those kind of faces that we meet with every where, without taking the least notice of them. This man, that I was speaking to you of, displeased me exceedingly: I found him constantly there: I made it a point to contradict his opinion and advice in every single instance. He was probably quite tired of being a widower: he first talked of love, and then of marriage. This soon came to my ears, and made me, if possible, hate him worse than I did before. 'Are you willing to marry this man?' said I to the lady. 'My friends and relations,' said she, 'are continually advising me to it; he, also, is always pressing me, and I really do not know what to do: I have not yet determined: what would you have me do?' 'Indeed,' said I, 'I advise you to nothing; marry him, marry him, since you have taken such a fancy to him.'

'Good God!' said she, 'fir, how you talk! if you do not in reality care what becomes of me, yet you might have discretion enough not to tell me so, openly.' 'Indeed, madam,' said I, 'you are mistaken; it is you that do not care about me.' This was a pleasant way of making love enough; but it was however as strong a declaration as ever I made her. She then went out of the room, and I returned home very melancholy. A friend that had happened to call upon me that evening, asked me whether I did not know that there was a marriage

‘on foot between Mr. ——— and Mrs. ———.
 ‘I am just come from there,’ added he, ‘all her
 ‘friends are gathered together, but she does not seem
 ‘very forward for the match; nay I found her very
 ‘very sorrowful: pray are not you the reason of
 ‘it?’

‘How,’ said I, without making a direct answer to
 the question that he had asked me, ‘do they talk of
 ‘a marriage’s being on foot? indeed I believe that I
 ‘am in love with her; I should like to marry her as well
 ‘as any body else, and would willingly hinder this
 ‘match’s taking place, if I knew how to go about
 ‘it.’ ‘Well,’ said he, there is no time to be lost:
 ‘run to her house, and see what she will say to you.’
 ‘Things may be gone too far,’ said I, not a little
 moved at the account that had been given me;
 ‘if you would be so good as to go and speak for
 ‘me, I should think myself greatly obliged to you.’
 ‘With all my heart,’ said he, ‘if you will wait for
 ‘me: I will go immediately and bring you back
 ‘her answer.’

‘He went then and told her that I was in love
 ‘with her; and desired to be preferred to the o-
 ‘ther person that courted her. ‘Well,’ said she,
 ‘desire him to come to me, and we will see what
 ‘can be done.’ Upon receiving this message from
 ‘my friend, I went immediately to her; and she took
 ‘me into a private room. ‘What is this then,’ said
 she, ‘that your friend has been telling me of? have
 ‘you in reality any thoughts of marrying me?’
 ‘Yes,’ replied I in great confusion, ‘I have.’ ‘Why
 ‘did not you tell me so before then?’ said she: ‘what
 ‘can be done now?’ upon this I took hold of her
 ‘hand. ‘You are a strange creature,’ added she.
 ‘Am not I,’ said I, ‘preferable to the other?’ it is ve-
 ‘ry lucky for you,’ said she, ‘that he is just gone
 ‘out: There is a little flaw in the writings, we will
 ‘see whether we cannot take advantage of this mis-
 ‘take and turn it out to our own use.’ ‘There are
 ‘only

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only a few of my relations in the next room. Let us go into them.

I followed her in, spoke to her relations, engaged them in my behalf, the lady was willing herself, so that there now remained no objection; whereupon one of them proposed to send for an attorney immediately. Matters were now gone too far to go back; the attorney came, they did with me just as they pleased, I signed and they signed; not a word of love in the midst of all this; I married her immediately, and was surprized the next morning to find myself noozed. Who is it, did I say to myself, that I have married? why, at least with a sensible woman. This was all the comfort that I then had, and the sequel will shew that I had no reason even for that little.

In about three months time, I came to the knowledge of her character, of whose sense I had all along had such a high opinion. I discovered that she was exceeding ill-tempered, always going about to her neighbours, censuring every thing that I either did or said; she never took any care of my family-affairs, thinking that was a good deal beneath her; she lived in a lazy, contemplative manner; she affected to intermeddle with religious disputes, and pretended to have an uncommon and deep knowledge in divinity. I should however, have let her alone, if this had been all; but in time she became exceeding troublesome and inconvenient: if I asked a friend to dinner, she would never dine at table, but always pretended sickness, and kept her room.

One must have been either a monk or a bigot to have lived upon tolerable terms with her: my table was always full of clergymen; not but they might be very honest good sort of people for what I knew, but they were not company that I liked; my house was neither a church nor a convent, nor did I desire that my dining-room should be made a refectory for their reception. But what provoked me the most of all,

was,

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was, that nothing was good enough for them, while my own friends and acquaintance were obliged to put up with very indifferent fare: Tho' this was not the worst of all, for as I loved peace, I endeavoured to put up with all these inconveniencies for the sake of quietness; but I had a strong suspicion that, in my absence, a deputy supplied my place with my wife.

'How, a deputy?' said the young man, interrupting him, 'this is something of consequence indeed.'

'Yes,' said he, 'I became jealous of her; and I wish to God that I had not had too much reason for being so. My wife's friends looked upon this jealousy as malicious, and looked upon me in a very bad light, for suspecting the virtue of so religious a woman as my wife was; a woman who was always at church, and continually hearing good things. All that I know of the matter is, that this deputy of mine, whom I kept to look after my business, was the son of her mother's chamber-maid, was a great fool, and had hardly the least grain of sense; so that I only kept him from charitable motives. This clerk, or deputy of mine, used commonly to go of her errands, was sent daily to enquire after the health of doctor such-a-one, and reverend Mr. such-a-one; then used to go in to her closet, and talk with her for some time, fetch her some books, and often read to her.'

'This strange behaviour of my wife gave me great uneasiness.' What! said I to her, 'what occasion can there be for all this hypocrisy? what business has such a saint as you to take up so much of my clerk's time? She then used to call me her plague, and would often say, that she verily believed I was sent to exercise her patience. I called her the first name that came into my head; and indeed, did not stand to make choice of a proper one; for her employing my clerk provoked me to a great degree. If I sent him a little farther than ordinary, she would complain that I was always fatiguing the poor young man.'

‘man. Indeed,’ would she often say with a tenderness, which did not do her much honour, ‘you will kill him at last.’

‘At length her favourite fell sick, and I was seized with a fever next day. I was exceeding ill; my servants attended me, while my wife took care of the boy. ‘My husband is the master,’ would she say, ‘he has nothing to do but to order what he will have, and it will be brought him; but as to this boy who will take care of him, if I do not!’ Her impertinence perhaps saved my life; for I was so enraged, that I recovered through an excess of passion; and as soon as I was well, the first sign that I gave of my being so, was the turning this object of her affection out of doors; and sending him somewhere else for the recovery of his health. My wife, giving way to her passion, came in a great fury, and demanded the reason of it, saying, ‘I perceive very well the motive of your acting in this manner; it is on purpose to insult me. The unworthy suspicions that you entertain of me, are too visible; but God will avenge me.’

‘I received her prediction in very ill humour. Well,’ said I, ‘I am sure the turning the villain out of doors will not bring upon me any misfortune. I am heartily tired of your hypocrisy, and desire you will leave me to myself.’

‘What she did upon this was as follows: we had a little chamber-maid in the house, genteel enough, and behaved extremely well. However, she did not please my wife; the reason of which was, I believe, that she was younger and handsomer than herself. I should have died if it had not been for her care of me in my illness. This girl made me some amends for the intolerable behaviour of my wife; and used to appease me, whenever she saw me in a passion, which made me, on the other hand, take her part. I kept her because she was so extremely handy and useful in the house. My wife ordered her

her into her apartment after dinner, found some pretence for quarrelling with her, reproached her for the kindness that I had shewn her; in short she told her, that she would not keep her any longer. Nanny (for that was the girl's name,) came to me all in tears, to take her leave, and told me the whole transaction.

As I saw that malice was the only reason of my wife's discharging her, I determined that she should stay. My wife upon this broke out more furiously than ever, and would not see her any more. However, I kept firm to my resolution. We ought surely to be masters in our own house, when we have reason on our side. My resistance did not at all tend to soften our minds; we talked to one another sometimes, but hardly ever without quarrelling. It must be observed that I had taken another clerk, who soon became my wife's aversion; she complained that she could not bear him, she crossed him in every little thing that she could, and all on purpose to vex me. However, it had no great effect; for I persuaded him not to mind her; and, in this particular he followed my directions exactly, and paid no sort of regard or attention, either to what she said or did.

I heard a day or two afterwards, that what she was chiefly desirous of, was to get me out of the house, if she could. 'God will favour me so far,' said she, 'as to let him strike me some day or other.' As soon as I was informed of her pious wish, 'no, no,' said I, 'madam, you need not flatter yourself in that manner neither. You may be assured that I will not oblige you so far as to do it. As to mortifications, you may indeed expect enough of them, you shall not want for them, I promise you. I confirmed this promise with an oath, which I believe boded me no good luck; for, notwithstanding my laudable resolution, she provoked me in such a manner one day, that on the remembrance of the many insolent

insolent things she had said, and of the box on the ear that she had given *Nanny*, I gave her one, before several of her friends, who were eye-witnesses of it. She went out of the room immediately, and sued me the next week: we have been engaged in a law-suit ever since, for which I have reason to be sorry; for notwithstanding my clerk, whom I have cited to appear on the occasion, yet I am afraid she will cast me, unless I can get some powerful people to interest themselves for me in the affair; and 'tis with this view that I am now going into the country to a man of quality, to whom I am recommended.

'I am in pain for you,' said the young man, 'with relation to your striking her. I am afraid that will make the affair go hard against you. As to the clerk, it is a very melancholy affair; but that is left intirely to her conscience; whereas, the box on the ear, is plain against you since, there are several witnesses of that.'

'Softly, Sir,' said the other, in a very doleful tone of voice. 'Let us leave off making any further reflections upon the clerk; I can make them myself, without giving any body else the trouble to do it for me. Do not make yourself uneasy; if the striking her must go against me, all I am sorry for is, that I only gave her one blow. There is not perhaps so much harm in the other matter as I at first suspected. The clerk was a fool; my wife might have been in love with him, without knowing it herself; and, in short, supposing there was any harm in it, the talking of it cannot by any means conduce towards mending the matter.'

'Undoubtedly,' said the officer, in order to appease him, 'a man in a passion often suspects more than is really true. As for me, throughout this whole recital, I only perceive that your wife is an unfociable woman. Come, let us change the discourse, and inquire what these two young people are going to do at *Hampton-Court*,' (for that was

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was the place that we were going to) I suppose, Sir, said he to me, 'you are only going out of curiosity, or for your diversion?' 'For neither, Sir,' said I, 'I am going to solicit an employment from a man in power.' 'If the men refuse you,' said he jokingly, 'apply to the women.' And you, Sir, said he addressing himself to the young man, 'have you any business at the place we are going to?'

'I am going to see a patron of mine,' said he, 'to whom I have lately dedicated a book.' 'Oh! yes,' said the officer, 'it is the book we were talking of the other day, when we dined together.' 'That is the very thing; pray have you read it, Sir?' said the young man. 'Yes,' replied the officer, 'I returned it yesterday to a friend of mine that lent it me.' 'Pray then,' said he, 'what do you think of it?' 'what would you do with my opinion of it,' returned the officer, 'it would not be of the least use to you.' 'But said the young man, 'I should be much obliged to you, if you would tell me what you think.' 'Indeed, Sir,' replied the officer, 'I cannot tell you well what I think of it; I am by no means a proper judge; it is not calculated for such people as me. I am too old.' 'How! too old?' said the author.

'Yes,' said the other, 'I am of opinion that young men may take a good deal of pleasure in reading it, as every thing suits that age of mirth and pleasure; but we old men are a little harder to be pleased, and in some measure resemble those nice stomachs, who are not to be tempted to eat but by great delicacies. Add to this, that I am not able to penetrate into the design of your book; one would imagine that you had not taken a great deal of pains in selecting your ideas, but had taken those that came uppermost. In the first case, one labours, refuses, and chooses; in the second, one takes whatever presents itself, let it be ever so much out of the way. If things that are purely remarkable are curious, your book is certainly a very pleasing one; and if it wants
'spirit,

spirit, it has at least sense. However you seem to me to have been guilty of several mistakes, for want of experience; and, in my opinion, have sense enough; so that you might have succeeded extremely well, if you had taken any other method. It is true, Sir, indeed, that the generality of the world are debauched; when therefore they behold any character drawn in that taste, they are pleased with it, but not unless it is in a manner disguised, and something, as it were, left to their penetration to discover, owing, perhaps, either to their own vanity, in liking to have such a compliment paid to their judgment, or else to that natural aversion which men cannot but have for vice, when its deformity is made so striking. A reader must be dealt with discreetly; if you have a mind to pay him a compliment on account of his imperfections, you must do it genteely, and by degrees, always taking care that it be not gross, and that at least an outward decency and regard for virtue be preserved. It is true indeed that your reader is a man, but you must consider him likewise as a man of some taste and delicacy, who expects his understanding, as well as his reigning passion to be addressed; and who, notwithstanding his attachment to vice, would publicly take care how he countenanced any thing that way. And tho' I have said all this, continued he, there are certainly very pretty things in your book; indeed I have observed a great many of them. With respect to your style, I cannot say it is at all bad, except that your sentences are sometimes too long and unconnected; and by that means not so clear as one could wish them, which is owing perhaps to your not sufficiently attending to what has gone before, or to your not having placed them in the order they should be: however, Sir, as you are but a young beginner, these are faults that will mend every day. You will by degrees acquire a habit of thinking more closely, and observing more pertinently; for I do not doubt

“doubt but your understanding will be considerably improved, at least I imagine that I have seen several things that promise as if it would. However we are now come to our journey’s end. You asked me my opinion, I have given it you, as one who has a very good opinion of your abilities, and should wish you one day or other to make a considerable figure in the learned world.”

This was the sum and substance of what the officer said upon this occasion, at least as much of it as I could remember. Just at this time the coach stopped; we got down and separated as each of our several businesses required. It was not yet twelve o’clock, and I was hasting to go and find lord R—— (the person to whom I had been recommended by his sister) I had no great difficulty to discover where he lived, as he was a man of fortune and fashion, and at that time of great consequence, by reason of his post. I went through a number of chambers, and at last was introduced into a large closet, where I found him surrounded by several people.

Lord R—— seemed to be between fifty and sixty years of age, of a very dark brown complexion, and very serious look; not such a one as damped you, for that is a particular kind, and serves rather to characterize the understanding than the face; but the seriousness that he either put on, or had naturally, was a proud and haughty one, seeming to proceed from a consciousness of his own dignity and importance, and calculated to command the respect and submission of all about him. The people that come near us, are more or less sensible of this; we are all in general so well acquainted with the nature of pride, that we are seldom if ever mistaken in our discovery of it in others. It is oftentimes (without our thinking of it) the very first thing that strikes us in our observations on any unknown character. However, whether this is true or no in the general, it was so with respect to myself in particular: this was the first impression that lord R—— made upon me.

I ap-

I approached him with a very submissive air; he was writing a letter, while the rest of his company were talking together. I paid my compliments to him with that kind of emotion which every one feels, when he is sensible of his own want of importance, and is about to beg a favour from a man of consequence, who does not at all contribute to his relief from this embarrassment by encouraging him, or even so much as looking upon him. This was literally true, lord R ——— heard every thing that I had to say, without casting his eyes once towards me. I held out the letter that I had got for him, which he never offered to take; this inattention of his placed me in a very ridiculous posture, and what was worse than all, I did not know how to get out of it.

Besides this, the company were looking upon me, composed of four or five gentlemen, none of whose appearances were capable of giving me the least consolation. They were people, that altho' they were not magnificent, yet they were rich, and in comparison of whom I was rather contemptible, notwithstanding the silk lining that I had to my coat: besides this, they were people advanced in years, whereas I was only eighteen, and this was by no means a small disadvantage to me, as the reader would have been more fully convinced, had he seen with what an air they looked upon me; so that my extreme youth was a considerable addition to my confusion. I was upon the whole then a gazing stock, with which they amused themselves for a while, by continually throwing out contemptuous and sneering looks at me. One looked side-ways at me with an air of the utmost haughtiness; another walking by the closet, with his hands behind him, stopped sometimes just by lord R ———, who still continued writing, and looked upon me now and then at his leisure. You may imagine what a figure I cut all this while. Another, with a very pensive look, fixed his eyes upon me, as if I had been an image on a wall, and with the air

of a man who is not thinking of what he is looking at. In short, I was in the utmost confusion. That occurrence made so great an impression upon me that I have never forgotten it.

At last however lord R——— finished his letter; so that, stretching out his hand for that which I was presenting to him, "Come, let us see what you have got here;" and then turning round, in the same breath, "pray, gentlemen," said he, "what o'clock 'is it?" "near twelve," said the person that was walking about. In the mean time my lord was opening the letter, which he read very expeditiously. "Well," said he, "this is the fifth person within these last eighteen months that my sister has recommended to me, four of whom I have provided for already. I cannot conceive where she picks up all the people that she sends to me; however, I find there will be no end of this, for here is one that is, if possible, more strongly recommended than any before. This is her hand, one might venture to swear it, for it is an original in its way." Upon this he gave the letter into one of the gentlemen's hands. "I shall go to town to-morrow," said he to me, "come to me there." I was then going to take my leave, when he stopped me. "You are very young, indeed," said he, "pray what can you do? I will lay a wager that you can do nothing." "I have never had any employment yet, my lord," said I. "I thought so," replied he, "she always recommends such people to me. If you can write, it is the most that I have any room to expect from you." "Yes, my lord," said I, "I can write and cast accounts too." "Oh!" said he, smiling, "you are a clever man indeed; come to me in town the day after to-morrow." Upon this I was going away, leaving the company not a little entertained with my being able to write and cast accounts, when in came a footman, and said that Mrs. such-a-one (for that was the method in which he chose to express

press himself,) desired to speak with his lordship. 'Oh oh,' said lord R——. 'I know who you mean very well; she is just come in time; desire her to walk in, and do you stay,' (turning to me.)

I said according to his orders, and in came two ladies very decently dressed, one of whom was about twenty years of age, accompanied by another about fifty. Both of them appeared extremely melancholy, and still more humble. I never saw any thing in my life more affecting than the young lady's countenance; one could not however call her a handsome woman, since finer features than her's are requisite to form a beauty. Imagine to yourself a face that has nothing either regular, or striking enough to surprise you, but which yet has nothing wanting to inspire you with awe, tenderness, and even with love; for the sensations that I felt on the account of that young lady had a mixture of all these. You might (if I may be allowed the expression) see her soul in her face, but a soul that was tender and virtuous, and consequently charming to behold. I say nothing of the old lady that accompanied her, and who gave one no other concern but on account of the melancholy that she was visibly oppressed with.

Lord R——, in speaking to me, had got up from his seat, and was in the middle of the room with the gentlemen, when the ladies made their appearance; he bowed to the young lady, when she came up to him, with an air of the greatest indifference. 'I know the reason, madam,' said he, 'of your coming. I have recalled your husband; but it is not my fault that he is always sick, and cannot do his business. What would you have me do? he is never able to attend.'

'What! my lord,' said she, in a tone calculated to obtain any thing, are there then no hopes? it is true indeed that my husband has very ill health, and your lordship has been hitherto so good as to take compassion on his weakness; continue therefore this

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‘this goodness; and do not treat us with so much rigour. You would perplex us in a manner that could not but affect you, if you were acquainted with the real situation of our affairs: do not therefore suffer me to continue in the affliction in which I am at present, and which would overwhelm me entirely, if you remain inexorable. My husband will in all probability soon get his health again, and you cannot but know the extreme need that we have of your lordship’s indulgence.’

I did not doubt in my own mind but lord R—— would immediately be softened, and grant her request; but alas! I was then ignorant of the world, and of the tempers and dispositions of the men that live in it: as a proof of this, he did not seem to be in the least moved at what the young lady had been saying. The truth of the case was, that lord R—— was extremely rich, and had lived in ease and plenty for the last thirty years of his life; so that when people talked to him of the embarrassments they were in, and of their indigence, they passed with him for words of course, and he did not seem at all to enter into the real meaning of them. And yet he must have naturally been very hard-hearted, for I believe it is only such kind of dispositions that are debauched by prosperity.

‘There is nothing to be done, madam,’ said he. ‘I cannot unsay what I have once said. This is the young man that I have given his employment to.’ Upon this declaration, which made me blush, the young lady seemed to cast a look at me, as if tenderly reproaching me, for being the unhappy, though innocent cause of her misfortune. However, had she understood the language of the eyes (which in many instances I have always looked upon to be more expressive than that of the tongue) she would have perceived that my intentions were very different.

‘You intend then,’ said I, ‘my lord, that I should have the post lately in the possession of this lady’s husband?’

‘husband?’ yes I do,’ said lord R—— ‘madam, I am your most humble servant.’ ‘It is not worth while, my lord,’ said I, stopping the young lady, ‘I had rather stay till you can give me another, when it is in your power. I am not at all in a hurry; permit the gentleman still to remain in it; if I was sick, I should be glad to be used in the same manner as I use to him.’

The young lady remained entirely silent, in order to hear what his lordship would say. As for him, I perceived that this instance of generosity surprized rather than pleased him; and that he took it ill that I should affect to be more noble-spirited than him. ‘You had rather stay then,’ said he, ‘this is something strange, indeed. Well, madam, we will see, when I come to *London*, what is to be done. Go,’ said he to me, ‘I shall talk to my sister about you.’

The young lady made a very low courtesy, without saying a syllable; the other lady followed her, and I went out too; however, in the manner that his lordship dismissed us, I despaired that what I had done could be of any service to the young lady; and indeed I saw by her looks that she did not expect any great good from it herself. But what was the more astonishing was, that one of the gentlemen that had been along with lord R—— came out of the room soon after us. The young lady and I had stopped upon the stairs, where she was thanking me for what I had just been doing, and shewed a gratitude, with which she seemed in reality to be greatly affected. The other lady, whom she called her mother, joined her thanks, and I was giving my hand to the young lady to help her down (for I had already learnt this little piece of civility) when we saw the abovementioned gentleman coming towards us, and approaching the young lady, asked her whether she did not intend to dine before she returned to town? ‘yes, sir,’ said she, ‘I do.’ Well then,’ said he, ‘come after

‘ after dinner to such an inn, where I am now going ; I want to speak with you, be sure you do not fail. Do you come too, said he to me ; ‘ you will not be at all sorry.’

He then left us. This was the person with whose appearance I was best pleased while he was in the room with lord R ———. ‘ Can you guess,’ said the young lady to me, ‘ what he wants with us ?’ ‘ no, indeed, madam,’ said I, ‘ I cannot, I never saw him before in my life.’ By this time we were got to the bottom of the stairs, and I was going with great reluctance to take my leave of the young lady ; when, upon my making the first motion, said the mother, ‘ sir, since my daughter and you are to meet at the same place by and by, do not let us part, but give us the favour of your company at dinner. After the kind intention you have been pleased to shew towards us, I should be much to blame if I did not desire the favour of your farther acquaintance.’

This was just what I wished. The young lady had a secret charm that made me desirous to stay with her. I flattered myself that the only motive was compassion, which made me interest myself in the success of her affairs. Besides, I had just done a good-natured action in her behalf, and we are naturally pleased with the sight of the persons whom we have obliged. This was, I thought, the whole reason of the pleasure I felt at seeing her ; for as to love, or any sentiment that has the least relation to that passion, I did not trouble myself about it, nay, I never so much as once thought of it. I applauded myself greatly for the tenderness that I felt for her, as being virtuous ; so that I followed these ladies with the most upright intention, and pleasing reflections on my own behaviour in the affair.

I observed that the mother whispered to the mistress of the inn, as I imagined, to order something extraordinary for dinner. I did not dare to tell her

that I knew what she had been about, much less oppose it, for fear it should look as if I had never known what good living was. In about a quarter of an hour afterwards dinner was brought up, and we sat down to it. 'The more I look at the gentleman,' said the mother, 'the more I think his countenance is of a piece with the generosity of his behaviour.' 'Good Good! madam,' said I, 'who would not have done the same? when they saw a young lady in such afflicting circumstances, who would not have done the same? when they saw a young lady in such afflicting circumstances, who would not have used their utmost endeavours to relieve her? it is a very melancholy thing not to be able to assist people in distress, and especially such amiable people too. I never was so affected in my life as I was this morning; I should have wept with compassion, if I had not, with difficulty restrained myself.'

This conversation, though simple, yet betrayed nothing of the clown, nobody could perceive that I was a rustick, but only that I was a good natured young fellow.

'What you have now said adds a fresh obligation to that which you have already conferred,' said the young lady, blushing, without knowing, perhaps the reason why she did so, unless indeed it was because my expressions were very tender, and she was afraid of being too much affected with them; it is true her looks were much sweeter than her discourse: she said only just what she pleased to say, and stopped when she had a mind to it, but when she looked at me, the case was greatly altered; at least it appeared so to me.

These are observations that might easily be made by any one, especially by persons in the same situation that I was then in with respect to myself: my usual gaiety and alertness had forsaken me, and yet I was extremely pleased with the company I was with; all that I aimed at, was the being esteemed benevolent,

lent, which could not fail of attracting their regard; and indeed that was all that lovely lady would permit me to have. It would be endless to set down all the compliments and obliging things that the ladies said to me. I asked them where they lived? which they told me, together with their names, and that too with an earnestness which denoted the sincere desire they had of seeing me at their house. The mother constantly spoke first, and then the daughter applied modestly what she had been saying, concluding her discourse with a look, in which I generally saw more contained than in her conversation.

After dinner, we talked of the appointment which had been made us, and in every light it appeared uncommon and surprizing. About three o'clock we got there, and were told that the gentleman had just done dinner; and as he had before told the people of our coming, they shewed us into a little parlour, where we waited for him, and whither he came soon after, with a tooth-pick in his hand. We made a great number of bows and curtesies at his entrance, which he suffered us to do without making any return, so much as by the inclination of his head, which I believe did not proceed so much from pride, as from a total forgetfulness of all ceremony. This was become more convenient to him, and indeed he got a habit of it, being continually in the company of his inferiors.

He advanced towards the young lady with the tooth-pick in his hand, (which was of a piece with the simplicity of his address.) 'Oh here you are,' said he to her, 'pray do not be so melancholy. Is that your mother that is with you, or any other relation?' 'she is my mother,' replied the young lady. 'Oh she is,' said he. 'Well, she looks like a very good sort of woman; and so do you too. I like good sort of people much, and as to this husband of yours, what sort of a man is he? what is the reason of his being so often out of order? is he

‘advanced in years? or rather is there not a little debauchery in the case?’

All these questions were home, and yet were asked with the best view in the world, as the sequel will fully show, but they had nothing softening or soothing in them, which the young lady’s case at present required; they were so many checks to that vanity which makes a part of almost every one’s composition. Some people are distinguished by the character of heavy-handed, certain it is that this gentleman’s was by no means light. But to return: he ‘was enquiring about the young lady’s husband. ‘He ‘is neither old nor debauched,’ said she, ‘he is a ‘man only thirty five year of age, tho’ almost worn ‘out with the misfortunes and disappointments that ‘have happened to him. It is sorrow that has taken away his health.’ ‘Oh dear!’ said he, ‘I can ‘easily believe that it is a very melancholy thing indeed. I was extremely affected at the recital of ‘your story, as well as your mother, who I observed wept very much; come then, tell me, it is with ‘great difficulty that you make a shift to live? pray ‘how old are you? ‘Twenty,’ replied she blushing. ‘Twenty!’ said he. ‘What made you marry so ‘young? you see what comes of it? children, and ‘trouble, a small fortune, afflictions upon the back ‘of that, and then farewell to house-keeping. ‘However, that is nothing to the purpose: Your ‘daughter,’ (turning to the mother) ‘is extremely ‘genteel, I like her figure much; but that is not ‘the reason for which I sent for her, on the contrary, it is because she is prudent, I am determined ‘to assist her, and do her all the good I can. I always interest myself in the success of a young lady ‘of discretion. Go on, madam, go on in the manner in which you have begun.’

‘I am also extremely well pleased with this young ‘man’s behaviour (turning to me) he must, I am ‘sure, be a good sort of a youth, by what he said
‘this

' this morning: you have certainly a good heart, and
 ' have given me a great deal of satisfaction; what
 ' he said to lord R ——— was very heroical in-
 ' deed, and surprised me. If my lord does not look
 ' out for some other employment for you, I assure
 ' you I will take care of you myself; come and see
 ' me in *London*; and do you too,' said he, turning
 ' towards the young lady, ' we must see what my lord
 ' intends doing with respect to your husband. If he
 ' restores him to his place, it will be well for you;
 ' but whether he does or no, I have something in
 ' view that I am sure will suit you very well, and
 ' be of great advantage. However, sit down a lit-
 ' tle, if you are not in a hurry, and acquaint me
 ' with the situation of your affairs. What was the
 ' reason of the many misfortunes that have befallen
 ' your husband? was he rich? pray what country-
 ' woman are you?

' A *Kentish* woman,' replied the young lady,
 ' *Kent* is a very good country,' said the gentleman;
 ' pray do your parents live there? let me hear your
 ' story; for, as I interest myself greatly in your
 ' welfare, it is a natural curiosity to enquire into the
 ' particulars of your story; the recital will give me
 ' a great deal of pleasure.' ' My story, sir,' said
 ' she, ' is not a very long one. My family is originally
 ' of *Kent*, but I was not brought up there. I am
 ' the daughter of a gentleman, who was far from
 ' being rich, and lived about twelve miles from this
 ' place at a farm, which was all he had, where he
 ' dy'd some time ago.' ' Ah!' said Mr. *Simms*,
 ' (for that was the gentleman's name that we were
 ' talking to) ' a gentleman's daughter! but what is
 ' that to the purpose, since you say he was in such
 ' indifferent circumstances? however, go on.'

' About three years ago my husband first paid his
 ' addresses to me; he was a neighbouring gentleman;
 ' and, as I was tolerably handsome at that time,
 ' (Oh! I do not doubt it,' said *Simms*, you were

‘ the finest girl in the county, I dare say)’ ‘ I was
 ‘ courted at the same time by a substantial trades-
 ‘ man, lately come from *London*, who had a house
 ‘ in that part of the world.’ ‘ You ought to have
 ‘ married that substantial trader,’ said *Simms*.

‘ You will see the reasons by and by,’ reply’d the
 young lady, ‘ why I did not marry him. His person
 ‘ was very well, and I did not hate him; not that I
 ‘ can say I loved him, but I gave him the prefer-
 ‘ ence to the gentleman, who was yet full as de-
 ‘ serving of my esteem as he. But as my mother
 ‘ (who was the only person that I had to depend up-
 ‘ on, my father being dead) left me at liberty to chuse
 ‘ which soever of them I pleased, I do not doubt
 ‘ but I should have given the preference to the trades-
 ‘ man, had not an accident happened, which made
 ‘ me all of a sudden prejudiced in favour of his rival.
 ‘ It was in the beginning of the winter when my
 ‘ mother and I were walking out, together with these
 ‘ gentlemen, when all of a sudden a large blood-
 ‘ hound came running towards me. You may guess
 ‘ what a fright this put me into; I endeavoured to
 ‘ save myself by running up to our company, which
 ‘ had got a little before us: my mother was willing
 ‘ to do the same, but fell down in her haste. The
 ‘ tradesman ran off, tho’ he had a hanger by his side.
 ‘ The gentleman was the only person that stood his
 ‘ ground; he drew his sword, ran up to me, faced
 ‘ the blood-hound, and struck at him just in the
 ‘ instant that he was going to leap up at me: he kil-
 ‘ led him, but not without putting his own life in im-
 ‘ minent danger; for he was wounded in a great
 ‘ number of places, nay thrown down, and rowled
 ‘ along with the hound, (who, it seems was mad)
 ‘ without letting go his sword, with which he at
 ‘ length very luckily dispatched him.

‘ Some cottagers, whose huts were not far off, and
 ‘ who heard our screams, did not come up till after the
 ‘ hound was killed; they took up the gentleman,
 ‘ who

' who by this time had lost a great deal of blood,
 ' and stood in need of immediate assistance to stop it.
 ' As to myself, I was about six yards off, and fainted
 ' away as well as my mother, who was pretty much
 ' in the same situation, so that we were all three ob-
 ' liged to be carried home, from whence we had
 ' wandered a considerable way. The bites that the
 ' gentleman had were not very deep, yet they were
 ' many in number; and, therefore, in order to pro-
 ' vide against the worst, he set out immediately for
 ' the sea. I own freely to you that I was greatly
 ' affected with the contempt that he had shewn for
 ' life, for he might have run away as well as his ri-
 ' val; and still more affected to see that he did not
 ' value himself at all upon what he had done, and
 ' that his love did not assume any confidence upon
 ' that account. ' I am not beloved by you, ma-
 ' dam,' said he; ' I am not so happy as to be a-
 ' greeable to you; however, I am not altogether
 ' miserable, since I have had an opportunity of shew-
 ' ing you, that you are dearer to me than every thing
 ' upon earth.'

' No body ought to be dearer to me than your-
 ' self,' said I, before my mother, who approved ve-
 ' ry much of the answer that I had given him.

' Yes, yes,' said Mr. *Simms*, ' there is nothing
 ' more noble than sentiments of that kind to deco-
 ' rate a romance withal. And so you married him
 ' on account of the danger he had sustained for you,
 ' ha? but truly, I should have been much better
 ' pleased if this same hound had never appeared;
 ' for, take my word for it, you would have been a
 ' happier woman than you are at present. But
 ' what became of the tradesman that ran off, did he
 ' come back again?'

' He had the assurance,' said the young lady, ' to
 ' come back; that very evening he came to our house,
 ' and bore for an hour the sight of his wounded ri-
 ' val, which rendered him more contemptible in my

‘opinion than his running away at first.’ ‘Oh!’ said Mr. *Simms*, ‘I really do not know what to say to you; I cannot think that the tradesman was altogether so much to blame as you make him; it was a very ugly animal, and your husband, after all, may be said to have been fool-hardy. But, come, pursue your story. The gentleman came back, I suppose, and you married him.’

‘Yes, Sir,’ said the young lady, ‘I thought that was the least that I could do.’ ‘Well,’ said Mr. *Simms*, ‘it shall be just as you please, but I cannot help thinking, that it would have been much better for you to have married the man that ran away, since you say that he was in tolerable circumstances. Your husband has an excellent hand at killing blood-hounds it must be owned, but we do not always meet with them in our way, whereas we are always in want of a subsistence.’ ‘My husband,’ reply’d the young lady, ‘had a very competent fortune when I first married him.’ ‘Competent!’ said *Simms*, ‘what do you mean by competent? come let us hear then how he comes to have lost this competency?’

‘By a law-suit,’ reply’d she, ‘that we were involved in with a great man, which grew much more expensive than we thought it would have been at first, which was got against us merely by superior interest, and the loss of which totally ruined us. My husband was then obliged to come to *London* to get some employment. He got recommended to lord *R——*, who gave him a place, the same which was taken from him a few days ago, and which you heard me ask for again. I do not know whether he will or not grant my request; he has said nothing that can give me any hopes that he will; however, I am comforted in some measure by having met with so generous a person as yourself, and by the goodness you have shewn in interesting yourself in my welfare.’

‘Yes,

‘Yes, yes,’ said he, ‘do not make yourself uneasy about it, we must assist people that are in affliction; I should be very glad that there was no such thing in the world as distress. This is my way of thinking, but that is impossible. And you, young man,’ said he to me, ‘of what country are you?’ ‘Of *Herefordshire*,’ said I. ‘Oh!’ said he, ‘there is charming cyder in that county. Is your father living there still? if he is, he may send me up some, for one is often deceived in that liquor: but who are you?’ ‘I am the son of a very honest man in the county,’ said I. (This was true, and was, at the same time, slipping over that word *farmer*, which seemed to me to be rather too mean.) This was the utmost that my vanity ever prompted me to; and indeed I should have said, in plain open terms, that I was a country farmer’s son, had not that expedient come in to my assistance.

Just at this instant the clock struck four; Mr. *Simms* pulled out his watch, and got up; ‘I am now going,’ said he; we shall see one another again in *London*. I shall expect to see you very soon. You may depend upon my utmost endeavours to serve you. I am your humble servant; but, now I think of it, I am going to send my coach back to *London*, you may as well go in it, as it will be so much money saved.’ Upon which he called up a footman. ‘Is *John* ready?’ said he. ‘He is putting the horses to,’ said the servant. ‘Well then,’ said Mr. *Simms*, ‘let him carry these two ladies and that young man.’ We would willingly have thanked him, but he was gone; down then we went, got into the coach very well satisfied, and indeed pleased with Mr. *Simms*’s behaviour.

I will pass over the particulars of our conversation during our journey, and only tell you, that I got back time enough for my appointment; for the reader knows that I had one with Mrs. *Amyand* at Mrs.

Baldwin's. Mr. Simms's coachman drove the ladies to their own lodgings, where I took my leave of them, having received many invitations, and given as many promises that I would come and see them soon. I then sent back the coachman took a hack, and drove to Mrs. Baldwin's.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS

OF

Sir Andrew Thompson.

BOOK IV.

I Have already said, in the latter end of the last book, that I was hastening to go to Mrs. *Baldwin's*, where Mrs. *Amyand* was waiting for me with great impatience. It was near half an hour after five when I got there; I found the place very quickly; I saw Mrs. *Amyand's* coach in the little lane that she had before told me it should be in, and in which was that back-door which she was to go through: I saw a little passage, at the end of which was a hall; and from this hall was a door into the garden, mentioned by Mrs. *Amyand*. I had not quite got to the end of the passage when I heard the hall door open; they probably heard some one coming, and out came a tall meagre old woman, dressed like a common servant, very cleanly, having a very staid and matron-like appearance. This was Mrs. *Baldwin*, as I then supposed; nor was I mistaken in my conjecture. 'Pray who do you want, sir?' said she, when she came up to me. 'I want,' said I, 'to speak with a lady who was to be here about this time, or who will be here presently, if she is not come already.' What is

is her name?" said she. '*Amyand*,' reply'd I. 'Come in, sir,' said she.

I went in; there was no body in the hall. 'She is not come yet, is she?' said I. 'You are going to see,' said she, pulling out of her pocket a key, with which she opened a door that I did not see, and which let me into a room where Mrs. *Amyand* was upon a couch reading. 'You are very late, Sir *Andrew*,' said she; 'I have been here this quarter of an hour at least.' 'Alas! madam,' said I, 'do not blame me; I am just come out of the country, where I was obliged to go, and I was very impatient to come here.' While we were talking, our obliging hostess, without seeming to listen to what we were saying, was putting the room to rights, and then went out without saying a syllable. 'You are going then,' Mrs. *Baldwin*,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, advancing towards a door that opened into the garden. 'Yes, madam,' reply'd she, 'I have got something to do above stairs, and perhaps you have got somewhat particular to say to the gentleman in the mean time; shall you want me?' 'No,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, 'you may stay there if you please; however, do not, by any means, confine yourself.'

Upon this Mrs. *Baldwin* went out, shut the door, and took out the key, which we could hear very plainly, though she endeavoured to do it as softly as she could. 'This woman must be mad, I believe she is locking us in,' said Mrs. *Amyand*, smiling with an air of great content and satisfaction, at seeing herself left alone with me. 'What signifies it,' said I, (and we were then going towards the Garden-door) 'we do not want Mrs. *Baldwin*; she would interrupt us much more than the chamber-maid at your house: besides, did not we agree before-hand that we should be left at liberty?'

While I was saying this to her, I took hold of her hand, looking, at the same time, very steadily on the whiteness and delicacy of its make, and kissed it sometimes.

times. 'Is this your method,' said she, 'of telling me what you have been doing?' 'I will tell you all in good time,' said I, 'the story is not in such a violent hurry as I am.' 'As you are?' said she; throwing her other hand over my shoulder, 'pray what is it that you are in such a great hurry about?' 'why, to tell you,' said I, 'how extremely beautiful you are; I have been thinking of this all day.' 'I have,' said she, 'been thinking about you too, and that in such a manner that I had a great mind, not to have kept my appointment.'

'Pray why?' said I, 'my angel, why have you formed so cruel a resolution?' 'why,' said she, 'because you are so young and inconstant. I remember how extremely lively you were yesterday, notwithstanding the restraint that you were under; and now that restraint is taken off, have I any reason to think, that the case will be at all altered? I can hardly believe it will.' 'Nor I neither,' said I, 'for I am, if possible, more amorous to-day than I was yesterday; and the reason of that is because you appear to me to be handsomer.' 'Very fine, very fine, indeed,' said she, smiling, 'these are very fine compliments, and tend to the giving me a great deal of confidence in you, to be sure. To be locked up with such a giddy young fellow as you are! where is that foolish woman gone? I would lay a good wager that we are the only two people in the house. I will scold her finely when she comes back; see, I pray you, to what danger she has exposed me.' 'you talk very pleasantly, madam,' said I, 'you hardly know, one would imagine, what it is to be in love. I should be glad to see you in my situation, in order that I might know in what manner you would behave.' 'Well,' said she, 'supposing that I was in your situation, I would behave like a reasonable creature.' 'Well,' said I, 'but if you endeavoured to behave so, and all to no purpose, what would you do then?' 'Oh dear,' said she,

'you

‘you quite tease me with your questions; I really do not know what I should do; but what does it signify, supposing that you are in love with me, cannot you behave just as I do? I am reasonable, notwithstanding I am in love with you; and indeed this is a confession that I ought not to have made to you, since, in all probability, you will take more advantage of it than I intended you should. Come, tell me what you have been doing in the country?’

‘oh! dear madam,’ said I, ‘do not let us be talking of that; let us rather discourse of the declaration that you have just now been making to me: this is so agreeable to me, that the very hearing of it enchants me.’

While I was saying this, I looked very eagerly at her; she was in an easy undress. ‘Nothing becomes you better,’ said I, ‘than this loose attire.’ ‘Come,’ said she, ‘do not think about me.’ Upon this she try’d to adjust herself a little. ‘My dear lady,’ said I, ‘you cannot alter your dress to advantage.’ And immediately I took hold of her with both my hands; her eyes seemed full of love; she sigh’d and said, ‘Well, sir *Andrew*, what do you mean now? it is my own fault for letting Mrs. *Baldwin* go away; another time I will make her stay; you will not listen to what is reasonable; go back a little, there are some windows from whence we may be over-looked.’

And indeed what she had said was but too true. ‘We need only,’ said I, ‘go into the room again.’ ‘We must indeed,’ said she, ‘however, be not so impatient for the future, I desire; I came here, relying upon your discretion entirely, and you are continually teasing me with your love.’ ‘And yet,’ said I, ‘I have not said half that I would; but, come, do not stand, sit down on the couch where I found you when I came in first.’ ‘No, indeed,’ said she, ‘I should be too much in your power; call Mrs. *Baldwin* first, call her I desire.’ This she said in a tone that spoke her irresolution.

In

In the mean time we were imperceptibly drawing near the place that I desired. "Where are you leading me too then?" said she, with an air of great tenderness. She was seated, and I had thrown myself on my knees before her, when, all of a sudden, we heard voices in the adjoining hall; and then the noise increased gradually; it seemed to us as if some people were disputing. "Ah! sir *Andrew*," said she, "what is the matter? get up I desire you." The noise, now grew extremely loud; we could plainly distinguish the voice of a man in a great passion, against whom *Mrs. Baldwin*, whom we could hear very distinctly likewise, was making some resistance. At last we heard the key put into the lock, when the door was soon opened, and a man about thirty years of age came into the room. He was tall and well made, but his looks shewed him to be in a violent passion.

I had drawn my sword in the mean time, and grasped it tight, going, at the same time, into the middle of the room, very uneasy about what might prove the consequence of this adventure, but resolved to oppose to the uttermost, any injury that might be offered either to *Mrs. Amyand*, or myself.

"Pray, who do you want, sir?" said I. The man, without speaking, looked very attentively at *Mrs. Amyand*, and became calm in a minute, pulled off his hat with a great deal of respect, not without a mixture of surprize; and, addressing himself to the lady, "alas! madam," said he, "I beg a thousand pardons, I am quite in despair of forgiveness for what I have done; I expected to have seen another lady here, whose welfare I take a considerable part in; and indeed I did not doubt of finding her here."

"Oh! dear sir," said *Mrs. Baldwin*, "it is high time for you to ask pardon, after what you have done. This lady, who is come here upon particular business to talk with her nephew, whom she has only an opportunity of seeing in this private manner, stands in need of your excuses, and so do

‘too.’ ‘You were in the wrong,’ replied the man, ‘you ought to have told me that you permitted other people to come here besides the lady that I came after. I am just come out of the country from dinner; I saw an equipage waiting in a little bye-street, and took it for granted that it belonged to the lady I know, and yet I was sure that I had not made any appointment with her at this time; add to this, that I saw a footman at a distance, whose liveries deceived me. I stopped accordingly to know what that lady was doing here; upon which you told me, no such person was in your house. I saw plainly that you were in great confusion; who would not then have suspected that there was something extraordinary concealed, in the discovery of which I was considerably interested? and now, except indeed the uneasiness that this affair has given to the lady, there is not the least harm done; and as to that, I humbly hope that she will forgive me.’

As he was saying these last words, he advanced towards Mrs. *Amyand*, with a look of great suppliancy, which had somewhat in it likewise of tenderness. Mrs. *Amyand* blushed a good deal, and would fain have withdrawn her hand, which he had taken hold of, and was kissing with a good deal of vehemence.

Upon this I went forwards, thinking that I ought not to be altogether silent upon this occasion. ‘The lady, sir,’ said I, ‘does not seem to me to entertain the least resentment against you; the best may be mistaken; you took this lady for another; there is no harm done, she excuses you; the shortest, therefore, as well as best way for you, is to take your leave.’

Upon this, he turned round, and, after having examined me for some time with attention; ‘I think verily that your face is not unknown to me,’ said he. ‘Pray have not I seen you at Mrs. *Such-a-one’s*?’ The person he was speaking of, was no other than the

the lady of my father's landlord deceased. 'You might, very probably,' said I, blushing, notwithstanding all my endeavours to the contrary; and, indeed, by this time, I began to recollect, that I had seen him there myself. 'Oh! dear, this is *Andrew*,' said he: I know him again now, it is he, I am sure. Indeed I am glad to see you so well provided for. Your affairs must have taken a strange turn to put you upon a footing with this lady; for, notwithstanding my rank in the world, I should be very glad to be in your situation: I have been endeavouring to gain her friendship these last four months; she herself may probably have perceived it, although I have not met her above three or four times within that space. My looks have told her how lovely she is: I have a great inclination for her indeed; and, I am sure, my dear *Andrew*, my passion for her is of much longer date than yours.'

Mrs. *Baldwin* was not present at this conversation, but had retired to the great hall, leaving us to get rid of the embarrassment we were under as well as we could. As for me, I was in the utmost confusion, and, like a true clown, made a bow to the man every word that he spoke, sometimes one foot, and sometimes another; I hardly knew what I was doing myself; the bringing back to my remembrance what I was willing to have forgot, and the quick transition from the plentiful condition I was now in, to plain *Andrew* the footboy, had taken from me all power of reflection and utterance. As to Mrs. *Amyand*, it would be very difficult to express her countenance and gestures upon this occasion. The reader may remember, that Mrs. *Baldwin* had spoken of me as Mrs. *Amyand*'s nephew: she was a devotee; I was young; her dress was more loose than ordinary that day; I was found locked up with her in the house of a woman whose apartments were open to any; the person that now saw her was an acquaintance of hers; here then she must drop all pretences to devotion

on for the future; for what turn could possibly be given to an affair in which so many circumstances concurred to the suspecting her very strongly?

However, Mrs. *Amyand* did not leave this wholly unattempted; she endeavoured to defend herself, but it was with such apparent confusion, that one could easily see she herself despaired of success; besides, it was some time before she could bring herself to say any thing at all. At last, however, she made a shift to hammer out, 'you are mistaken, sir, indeed you are mistaken, if you imagine any harm of me: it is upon the most innocent account that I am now come here; my intention was to speak to this young man about some assistance that I am going to give him.' As soon as she had said this, the tone of her voice altered, her eyes shed tears, and deep sighs hindered her from saying any thing more.

As to myself, I really did not know what to say. The name of *Andrew*, which he had called to my remembrance, kept me in awe. I was always afraid that he would begin some sentence, and mention it again. All that I thought of was how to make my escape as well as I could; for what could I possibly do with a rival who called me plain *Andrew*, and that too in presence of a woman to whom this freedom was as humbling as it was to myself. It was a shame for a woman of her character to have a lover at any rate, and to have one of so low a rank as myself, was still more shameful. There could not be any matter of great delicacy between her and *Andrew*: so that, besides the great embarrassment that I found myself under, I perceived too that I was the object of his contempt.

I was seeking for some reasonable excuse for my taking my leave, when Mrs. *Amyand* said, that the whole intention of her coming, was to give me as much assistance as she could. And upon that, without giving the gentleman time to make any reply, 'it shall be some other time, madam,' said I, 'be pleased

pleased to continue in the same favourable sentiments towards me, and I will wait with patience for the effect of those good intentions; and since you seem to be so well acquainted, together, I will take my leave of you: as to the love that the gentleman has been talking of, I really cannot so much as guess at what he means.' Mrs. *Amyand* did not say a syllable by way of reply, but kept her eyes stedfastly fixed upon the ground, seeming a good deal mortified.

The gentleman immediately took hold of her hand, which she freely abandoned to him, because, in all probability, she could not refuse him. 'Farewell, *Andrew*,' said he, as I was going away. This in a manner put me out of all patience, and as I was going out inspired with me a greater degree of confidence, and I replied, 'Farewell, *Peter*.' This answer of mine made him burst out a laughing, and I immediately slapped to the door, out of pure anger.

I found Mrs. *Baldwin* at the street-door. You are 'going then,' said she, are you? pray stay. 'No,' said I, 'what would you have me do there, now that man is come? pray what makes you let him come here so frequently as he says he does? this is a very disagreeable circumstance indeed; I come out of the country, take your room, in order to talk upon private business, not doubting but I should be here in perfect tranquillity; and yet it is no such matter; it is just as bad, as if one had been in the street. What signifies pressing me to stay, now we have been interrupted in the manner that we have? not that I care a farthing for what has happened with respect to myself; it is on Mrs. *Amyand*'s account that I am chiefly concerned. What do you think this man will say of her, after finding her locked up in a room with so young a person as myself?'

'Good God! my dear child,' said she, I am heartily sorry for what has happened. I had got the key of your room-door in my hand when the man came

‘came in: when he snatched it immediately from me. But you have no reason to make yourself uneasy, either upon your own, or upon Mrs. *Amyand*’s account; the person that came in is one of my particular friends, who comes to see a lady of my acquaintance here, now and then. I do believe between you and me, he is in love with her; and I suppose it was his jealousy that made him push in so abruptly just at this time: but what is that to the purpose? stay a little, I am sure he will be going presently.’

‘You have too numerous an acquaintance,’ said I, ‘Mrs. *Baldwin*.’ ‘Oh dear!’ said she, ‘what would you have me do? my house is very large. I am a widow woman, and alone. Gentle-folks come and tell me, that they have got some particular business to transact together, which no body must know of. Would you have me refuse to lend them a room, especially people that I lie under great obligations to, and that profess a great friendship for me? it is not for such people as I am to be nice. After all, what great harm is there, that Mrs. *Amyand* has been seen with you at my house? I am only sorry that I did not open the door at first; for what can possibly be said? in comes a lady, and then a young gentleman; there they are together. Am I then to separate them? the man is young, but is there any necessity that he should be old? it is true indeed that the door was locked. Well then, another time it shall be left open. As for myself, the only reason why I was not with you, was, that I had got business above stairs to do: besides, what reason has Mrs. *Amyand* to make herself uneasy? have not I already said, that she is your aunt?’ ‘Ay, but,’ said I, ‘he is very well assured of the contrary by this time.’ ‘He must then be very knowing, indeed,’ said she, ‘pray are not you afraid of his going to law with you?’

While Mrs. *Baldwin* was talking to me in this manner,

ner, I was thinking of the two people that I had left together in the room; and though I was very glad that I was got out, on account of the name of *Andrew* which he was continually ringing in my ears, yet I was extremely sorry that my conversation with Mrs. *Amyand* had been interrupted. Not that I felt any tenderness for her; for I had never had any in reality, however I might flatter myself that I had; but I dreaded the consequences that might ensue. Besides, the sight of the young lady that I had met with in the country, and travelled with to town, diminished and abated a good deal of my desire for the interview.

However, Mrs. *Amyand* was a woman of consequence, and extremely handsome into the bargain, whom I had seen lying upon the couch, and darting very amorous looks at me. People of my age have no great need of love, to incline them towards people in such a situation as this. There are a great number of amours, in which the heart does not bear the least share; indeed I believe the far greater number may be said to be of this kind. And in general, it is upon these that love forms itself, and not upon a delicacy of sentiment, which is of little or no assistance to them. We are ourselves for the most part, the cause of that tenderness which we feel; and oftentimes purposely, to set off and adorn the passion, we make use of this honest artifice, if I may so call it; but it is from a parity of sentiment only, that we become real lovers.

But however this be, the love that I felt was merely sensual; and as even that is subject to be agitated, I was much displeased at having been interrupted. The gentleman took hold of her hand, kissed it, without the least ceremony, and no doubt assumed a great deal of confidence, upon his having surprized us together. Mrs. *Amyand*, who had hitherto passed for a woman of the strictest piety, was now discovered to be the reverse; and therefore could not pretend
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to treat him with disdain. The man appeared to me to be agreeable enough: he had been in love with this lady four months, according to his own account, had found out what kind of woman she was in reality, and it was not at all unlikely, that he would revenge himself, if he met with a refusal; as, on the contrary, he would most probably hold his tongue, if he met with an agreeable reception: Mrs. *Amyand* was naturally amorous; and, in this particular instance, she had very good reason for shewing herself so; so that I was in the utmost anxiety, being in doubt which way she would act. I was kept back by an uneasy curiosity; indeed, I believe the true name of it may be called jealousy; in short, it would be extremely difficult to say in the main what it was. As to her heart, I did not trouble myself much about that, it was her person that gave me most uneasiness; for we never think so much of a woman's sentiments as of her actions.

While I was in the midst of these reflections, I bethought myself that I had some money about me; that Mrs. *Baldwin* had a passionate desire for it, and that a woman who let out a room very willingly for two or three hours at a time, would not refuse to let me have a closet, or some other apartment adjoining to that in which they were. 'Now I think of it,' said I, 'I will not go; I will stay till this man is gone from Mrs. *Amyand*. Have not you some closet adjoining to that in which they are, where I might conceal myself for some time? I do not desire that you should do this for nothing, I will pay you for it,' and while I was saying this, I drew my purse out of my pocket.

'Oh! yes, by all means,' said she, looking at a guinea, that I held in my hand, very stedfastly; 'there is a little closet that is parted off from the room by a very thin wainscot, where I put my old clothes: however, you had better go up stairs.' 'No, no,' said I, 'that closet will do very well; I shall, by
that

‘that means be nearer Mrs. *Amyand*, and know the very instant that the man leaves her.’ ‘Here,’ said I, (giving her the guinea) ‘here is something for your trouble;’ not without reproaching myself secretly for putting Mrs. *Thompson*’s money to so unworthy a purpose. I was ashamed, though I strove not to appear so; and, by that means, in some measure, got rid of that uneasiness which the reflection would otherwise have given me.

‘Oh! dear,’ said Mrs. *Baldwin*, ‘you need not put yourself to this trouble,’ (taking, at the same time, what I offered her) ‘this is a great piece of kindness of yours, and I am extremely obliged to you for it. Come, and I will shew you the place that I meant; however, be sure you do not make the least noise; walk very softly, for it is not proper they should hear that you are there.’ ‘Oh!’ said I, ‘you need not give yourself the least uneasiness about that; I warrant you I shall behave discreetly.’

Just at this instant we came into the hall; she pushed open a door, which was covered over with some ragged hangings, and which gave an entrance into the little closet above-mentioned. It was pretty near the same thing as if I had been in the room, as the wainscoting was only a few slit deals; so that they could hardly breathe without my hearing them. It was, however, full two minutes before I could distinguish what it was that the gentleman was saying to Mrs. *Amyand*; for I found he was the person that was then speaking; but this was owing to my emotion; as my heart beat so violently, that it was some time before I could give any attention. I distrusted Mrs. *Amyand* not a little; and what was still more surprising, I distrusted her because I had the good fortune to be agreeable to her; and that passion which she had owned to be affected with in my favour, was so far from giving me any confidence, that it tended to encrease my suspicions of her.

I then

I then attended some time after, and the reader will now hear a conversation which is suitable only to a woman that one has not the least esteem for; but, to whom, notwithstanding all this, by reason of her perfections, one gives something up, which may plainly be perceived not to come from the heart. Mrs. *Amyand* appeared to me to be sighing very deeply. ‘For heaven’s sake, madam,’ said the man, ‘sit down upon the couch one instant, for I cannot leave you in the condition in which you are at present. Pray tell me what is the reason of your weeping? what reason have you to be afraid of me? and why do you still continue to hate me with so much rigour?’ ‘Sir, I do not hate you,’ said she, ‘sobbing, and my tears do not proceed from any reason that I have to reproach myself; but here a very unfortunate accident has happened, and the more so, because several circumstances concurred in which I had not the least share in bringing about, and ought not, therefore, to have any of the blame thrown upon me. Mrs. *Baldwin* locked us in, which I knew nothing of; she has told you, that this young man was my nephew: this she said of her own head; and, indeed, the surprize that I was thrown into, hindered me from contradicting her. I do not know what end she had in saying so, and yet I have contributed to her accomplishing that end, without knowing any reason why I should do so. This lays me open to your suspicions and censure; this is the cause of my present concern, and a very justifiable one too, I think.’

‘Yes, madam,’ reply’d he, ‘I own that if you had a man of no character to deal with, you would have very good reason for your grief, and this accident might do you a considerable prejudice, especially to you who live so retired; but, believe me, madam, this incident shall be as much concealed as if no body else knew any thing of the matter but yourself. Do not, therefore, give your-
self

self any uneasiness upon that account; be as composed as you was before I came into the room; no man of any honour would mention it, and indeed you may depend upon my being one of that character.

Well then, sir, reply'd she, you give me some confidence; you tell me, that you are a man of honour, and it is true, that you have all the appearance in the world of being so; and, though I have but a very slight acquaintance with you, I have always thought so; the people, at whose house we have sometimes seen each other, have constantly spoken of you in that light; and, indeed, if there is any dependance to be had upon a person's countenance, yours bespeaks you to be such. Besides, sir, by observing a strict silence with respect to this affair, you will not only follow the dictates of honour, which require it of you, but will also give me the justice that is absolutely due to my innocence; for, after all, the appearances are only against me, there is nothing that can, with reason, be laid to my charge.

Oh! madam, said he, I perceive that you still distrust me, since you are endeavouring to justify yourself; but pray assume more confidence; it is my interest that you should, since it would be so much ground gained in your affections, and you would not be so far off from making some return. Some return, said she, in a very melancholy tone, what is it that you are talking about now? I am very sorry that I am now exposed to the hearing of whatever you shall think proper to say; you would not have presumed to have said this at any other time, but I suppose you imagine you may say any thing to me in my present situation. (By way of parenthesis, do not let the reader forget that I heard this conversation the whole time, and that my sentiments were apparently changed, my passion in a man-

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ner ennobled itself, and became worthy of the discretion which she shewed upon this occasion.)

‘No, madam,’ said he, ‘do not concern yourself about me, you have no reason at all to do it. My silence on this head is a thing quite foreign to the purpose, since my discovering it would redound more to my disgrace than to yours. My honour is engaged. What did you think then that I wanted you to buy my silence? on my word you wrong me: no, indeed, madam, give me leave to repeat it to you once more, in whatever manner you may think fit to use me, it does not signify any thing, with respect to my silence; and if, even now, you desire my absence, I will take my leave of you immediately.’

‘No, sir,’ said she, ‘you mistake my meaning widely; my reproaching you was not because you were disagreeable to me, nor am I the least angry at the declaration of love you have made. People are at liberty to love whom they please; a woman cannot help her being beloved, and the affection of one like you is much more supportable than that of another man; I could only have wished that yours had shewn itself on any other occasion than the present, because I should not then have had it in my power to think that you take an advantage of what has happened, unjust as it is; for, give me leave to assure you once more, that it would be extremely unjust; you are unwilling to believe me, I know, but I tell you the truth.’

‘Oh! how sorry, madam, should I be,’ said he, in a lively tone, ‘if you did really speak the truth! for what is all the matter in dispute? why only the having taken a liking to a young man.’ ‘Oh! dear sir,’ said she, ‘do not believe any such thing, that is not the matter in dispute I assure you.’ He then seemed to me to throw himself upon his knees, and interrupting her, ‘do not deceive me any longer,’ said he, ‘who is it that you are now justifying yourself to? am I either of a proper age or character to impute

* impute your meeting at this place to you as a crime?
 * do you think that I esteem you the less, because you
 * are subject to what at most can but be called a
 * weakness? all that I can conclude from it is, that
 * your heart is remarkably tender; the more suscep-
 * tible one is of tender sensations, the more generous
 * the soul is, and, consequently, the more worthy
 * of esteem. It makes you, if possible, more lovely
 * than you would otherwise be; it is a virtue in your
 * sex to be subject to such weaknesses.' (This was
 a piece of morality very proper to be inculcated at
 such a house as Mrs. *Baldwin's*, but the pill ought
 * to have been gilded.) You struck me the very first
 * moment that I saw you. You know it very well;
 * I looked upon you with infinite pleasure: you per-
 * ceived it very plainly: This I knew from your
 * looks: come, own it freely to me, madam; is not
 * this the truth?

'It is true,' said she, in a much calmer tone than
 I thought she would have spoken in, and indeed, by
 these words, I suspected that this would throw me
 back into my former situation. 'Yes,' said he, in a
 very melancholy voice, 'notwithstanding that I
 * thought you entertained such an aversion for men in
 * general; and, indeed, in that respect, I was not at
 * all deceived. Mrs. *Amyand* is naturally tender-
 * hearted, and, perhaps, strong in her liking or disli-
 * king of things, she has taken a fancy to this young
 * man, it is not then impossible but she may have
 * done the same for me, who have loved her so long,
 * though he in a manner, prevented her making any
 * advances towards me by being before-hand with
 * her. But, perhaps, she was prejudiced in my fa-
 * vour before she saw this man; and, if this was the
 * case, pray, madam, why should you conceal, or dis-
 * continue it? What have you done that lays you under
 * an obligation of concealing it? or what reason have
 * you to blush at all about it? what harm have you
 * done? do you depend upon the friendship or assis-
 * stance of any one? have you got a husband?

‘on the contrary, are you not a widow, and entirely
 ‘your own mistress? can your conduct be at all
 ‘blameable, viewed in any light that you please to
 ‘throw it into? have you not made use of the ut-
 ‘most precaution that woman could in such an affair
 ‘as this? have you then any reason to despair; or
 ‘to imagine yourself and reputation ruined, because I
 ‘have met you in this place by accident? especially
 ‘me, whom you may use just in what manner you
 ‘please; and who, besides, am a man of the strict-
 ‘est honour? who, above all adore you; and whom
 ‘perhaps you would not hate, if you did not tor-
 ‘ment yourself, with unnecessary fears, about what
 ‘is really nothing; and which, in the end can only
 ‘be laughed at, at most.’

‘Alas!’ said Mrs. *Amyand* fetching a deep sigh,
 which seemed to forebode a reconciliation, ‘into
 ‘what an embarrassment have you thrown me? I re-
 ‘ally do not know how to answer you; for one can-
 ‘not possibly answer the ideas that one has of you;
 ‘you must be a strange sort of man, to imagine that
 ‘I have looked upon that boy with any degree of af-
 ‘fection.’ (Let the reader observe here, that my heart
 ‘gave her up, and had now nothing more to do with
 ‘her.) ‘Well, well,’ said he, ‘supposing there is
 ‘nothing in it, what is the reason of my speaking to
 ‘you about it? why, it is only to prolong the con-
 ‘versation, and consequently to encrease my happi-
 ‘ness. For what has this accident done? why, it has
 ‘only given us the liberty of speaking with more
 ‘freedom than I should otherwise have done, for
 ‘some time. Had it not been for this, it would have
 ‘been a long time before I could have prevailed up-
 ‘on you to have given me a favourable hearing;
 ‘whereas now, we are carried to a very desirable
 ‘length, as it were insensibly; it depends only up-
 ‘on you to decide how far and what use is to be
 ‘made of this. And since I find it is not impossible
 ‘to please you, and I have a great affection for you,

pray

‘pray what may I have reason to expect? what will you do with me? tell me, madam, I desire you will relieve me from the state of suspense in which I now am.’

‘Why do not you say this in some other place, and at some other time?’ said Mrs. *Amyand*. ‘The circumstances I am in at present, are considerable discouragements to me. I cannot help thinking that you take advantage of the incident; I would only wish that your sentiments for me were conformable to those that I feel for you.’ ‘Your sentiments,’ said he (while I was fretting and fuming pent up in my little closet.) ‘Oh follow then the bent of your inclinations, and do not lay them under any restraint; follow them, and if, notwithstanding every thing that I have said, you still continue to distrust me, if my honour has not given you sufficient confidence.——Well then,’ continued he, as if recollecting himself; ‘What does it signify? be still afraid of me, and entertain suspicions of my discretion. Nay, this I would very willingly consent to, provided it served to hasten those inclinations that you were talking of just now. I have a great mind to tell you the whole of my heart; for the greatness of my love will not admit of any delicacy. I love you so well, that I have not sufficient strength to refuse you this little assistance; however, if you knew me thoroughly, I should not have the least occasion for it. Forget then that we are here, and think that you would most certainly have fallen in love with me, either sooner or later, since you were so disposed; and that I would have omitted nothing to have brought it about.’

‘I do not pretend to deny it,’ said she, ‘I gave you some particular marks of preference; I enquired more than once what was become of you.’ ‘Well,’ said he, very briskly, ‘let us then rejoice at the lucky accident that brought us together; we have no

' need of hesitating any longer, madam.' 'Oh! but, sir,' said she, 'when I think of the engagement I am going to enter into, I cannot but own that I have a great fear upon me. You may think of me just as you please, but the truth is, my manner of life is far different indeed from that which you seem willing to have me make it; and since I am to life no reserve with you, you must know that for some time past I have purposely avoided you; that I have more than once forebore visiting certain people, because I imagined that I should meet you there. And yet, alas, I have been there but too often!'

'What! said he, did you avoid me at the time that I was so assiduously following you? do you own this, and shall I not take any advantage of the opportunity which I now have of avenging myself? and shall I still leave you at liberty to avoid me for the future, if you please? no, indeed, madam, I will not leave you till I have secured to myself the possession of your heart, and put it out of the power of your cruelty to use me ill any longer. No, you shall not escape me now. I adore you, and, you must love me; and not only that, but you must convince me of it beyond all possibility of doubting.' 'How impetuous you are!' said she, 'what a tyrant you are? and how indiscreet am I, for having said so much as I have?' 'Well,' said he, mildly, 'what is there that hinders you then? and what is there so terrible in the engagement you are talking of that gives you any reason to be afraid? I am the only person that ought to fear. You are secure enough of my not being inconstant. Your charms are your security.'

'Nay,' said she, 'methinks you, of all people, ought not to talk of constancy, for was it not another lady that you came in search of? I will not ask you who it is, since I know you are a man of too much honour to tell me if I did; and indeed, for the sake of my own peace and quietness, I ought not

'not to know it. I dare say she is very handsome,
 'and yet you leave her for me. Is that an encour-
 'aging circumstance to me?' 'How little justice
 'do you do yourself, and what a comparison have
 'you drawn?' said he. 'Pray, did I see you six
 'months before I fell in love with you? what a deal
 'of difference is there between a person that we love,
 'because we cannot do any otherwise, being born
 'with an inclination towards her (you are the per-
 'son, madam, that I am speaking of;) and one
 'whom we take up with, only because we must be
 'doing something? whom we talk of love to, with-
 'out having the least regard for them in reality; and
 'who imagine that you are really dying for them,
 'only because you tell them so? Pray let us not
 'confound such things together, let us make a dis-
 'tinction, I beseech you.'

I am already tired of telling the reader that Mrs.
Amyand sighed: this was however the truth; for wo-
 men in general, make use of these little artifices,
 well knowing they are necessary to support a pretend-
 ed affection, and that they serve well enough to set
 off and adorn a true one.

'How very pressing you are?' said she. I agree
 'that you are very engaging; indeed you are too
 'much so. Is not this declaration sufficient to con-
 'tent you? must I tell you, in plain terms that I love
 'you? will you not suspect that you are indebted
 'only to this accident for my freedom? though, had
 'I before been prejudiced in your favour, my conti-
 'nuing so still, notwithstanding the accident that has
 'happened, ought to convince you of my esteem,
 'without insisting upon the whole being transacted
 'in so short a space of time as half an hour: I never
 'met with any thing like it, I assure you, you would
 'not lose any thing by allowing me more time.
 'Oh! dear madam,' said he 'you must have forgot
 'yourself, surely; be so good as to recollect that I
 'have been in love with you these last four months;

“you have perceived it ever since that period of time, and have taken particular notice of me, according to your own confession. Has there not then been a sufficient time allowed for ceremony? why then are you so scrupulous? nay, why do you hold your eyes down, and blush?” (though in all probability this last was an addition of his own, merely to flatter her.) “Do you love me really? and, to convince me you do, give me but one word of comfort.”

“How insinuating you are?” said she. “This is very strange indeed; I am quite ashamed of it. I can never wonder for the future at any thing that shall happen; I believe verily that some time or other I shall fall in love with you. But pray tell me, whether you are in earnest? and whether you really love me as much as you pretend to do? you are so engaging that I am afraid of your being inconstant; and this is one great cause of my hesitation.”

“Oh! are you come to this?” said I unwittingly, and before I thought of what I was saying, being enraged at what I had heard Mrs. *Amyand* say last. The indiscretion I had committed surprized me a good deal; and accordingly I quitted my closet as soon as I could, in order to make my escape. As I was going off I heard Mrs. *Amyand* say, ‘oh dear! he has been listening all the while to what we have been saying!’ the gentleman came out of the room, though he was a long while opening the door, and then he cried out, ‘who is there?’ but I made such good haste, that I had got half way the passage before he perceived who it was.

Mrs. *Baldwin* went toward the street-door, and seeing with what precipitation I was making off, ‘what is the matter?’ said she, ‘what have you done?’ ‘oh!’ said I, ‘the people within will inform you much better than I can.’ And upon that I went out, and walked very hastily. My flight did not proceed from an apprehensions of the gentleman; all that I disliked, and therefore determined to avoid as much

much as I could, was the being called *Andrew* by him, as it brought to my mind scenes that I wished to forget. Could I have made my appearance like sir *Andrew*, I should then have staid. But, unluckily for me, it was not above four or five months before, that he knew me in the capacity of a servant. How could I then face a man, who had such an apparent advantage over me as he had? there are certain heights of assurance, which it is impossible for some men ever to come up to, although they, at the same time, do all they can, and though the desired pitch is very far from being insolent; and yet, in my opinion, a man must be born insolent, in order to be capable of doing them. Neither was it want of pride that hindered me from standing my ground upon this occasion, but rather my vanity had in it a mixture of shame, which was the reason that it could not support me at a time when I stood in such need of it.

I came out then of Mrs. *Baldwin's* with a foreign contempt for Mrs. *Amyand's* behaviour, and yet with a profound liking for her person. There is nothing at all surprizing in this, if you will but remember the distinction already made between love and lust, in which it was fully proved, at least to my satisfaction, if not to thine, gentle reader, that there are many amours in which the heart has not the least concern.

I did not return home as I first intended, but resolved within myself to see what they would do. I had left them pretty well reconciled, and wanted much to see what would be the end of this adventure. Accordingly I went into a passage, about twenty yards from Mrs. *Baldwin's*, over against the corner of the lane where Mrs. *Amyand* had left her coach. There I staid some time, looking now and then towards the street, and at other times towards the house that I was just come out of, being all this while in great agitation,

agitation, much greater than I had been in at Mrs. Baldwin's, where I was a hearer at least of every thing that was going forwards, and heard so well too, that it was almost equal to seeing, which made me know what I had to depend upon.

However, I was not kept a great while in suspense; I had scarcely waited four minutes when I saw Mrs. Amyand come out of the garden-gate, and get into her coach. After her, the gentleman came out and went into his, which I saw pass by me. This made me pretty easy again. All that now remained of my affection for Mrs. Amyand might be called a liking, but such a liking, as is not at all vehement, and which, from this time, ceased to give me any uneasiness: though, indeed, if any body had given me my choice of women just before, I should have given her the preference to them all. You may well imagine that this put a stop to all intercourse between us for the future. She ought not to have wished to see me again, now that I knew so much of her as her late conversation had let me into; neither did I think of going near her any more.

It was very early as yet. Lady R—— had desired me to bring her back word, as soon as I could, what success her recommendation had given me; accordingly I went thither before I returned home. I found no body in the yard, which made me suppose all her servants had been sent purposely out of the way. I went into a number of rooms, without meeting with a soul; at last I came into an apartment, where I heard some body in the adjoining room, either talking or reading, though it seemed a good deal more like the latter, by the continued tone of voice. The door was only shut to; and thinking it not worth while knocking at a door that was half open, I went in, without the least ceremony. My conjectures were right; a person was reading to lady R——; an old woman was sitting at the feet of her bed, and a footman was standing close to the window. The person

person that was reading was a tall ineagre woman, seemingly very surly and ill-natured.

‘Good God!’ said she, starting up as soon as I came into the room, ‘why did not you take care to shut the door?—— What, is there no body below to hinder people from coming up stairs? pray is my sister in a condition to see company?’ this compliment was not so soft as one could wish; but it agreed exactly with the air and mien of the person who spoke it. As I afterwards became better acquainted with her, it may not be altogether amiss to give the reader a description of her.

Imagine to yourself one of those ugly women who is conscious to herself that she should be overlooked in the world; that she has the mortification to see others liked and carested exceedingly, while herself is for ever excluded from that benefit; and who, in order to avoid being affronted, and, at the same time, to hinder people from seeing the true cause of the neglect and obscurity in which she lies hid, affects a remarkable rigour and severity in her behaviour, in order to persuade the world that it was the difficulty of access, and not the defects of her person, that hindered her from being made love to. Imagine all this, and you will then have a tolerable idea of the woman I have been speaking of.

As she had disgusted me a good deal at first sight, this rough speech of hers did not disconcert me in the least, as it seemed to me to be perfectly suitable to her. Without therefore paying any attention to what she had been saying, I made a bow to lady R——, who said, ‘Oh! Sir Andrew, you are come? do not make yourself uneasy, sister, I am extremely glad to see the gentleman.’ ‘Lord, madam,’ said I, ‘what is the matter with you? some strange alteration has happened. I left you in very good health yesterday.’ ‘Very true,’ said she, in a low voice, ‘I was never better in my life than I was yesterday, nay, I went out last night, and eat a very hearty supper, after which I thought

‘ thought that I should have died with the cholic, which was so violent, that I imagined myself in imminent danger; and which has still left me in a high fever, attended, as they tell me, with very bad symptoms; my sister is very luckily come out of the country, and was so good as to read me a chapter out of the bible. Well, Sir *Andrew*, give me an account of your journey; was my recommendation of any service to you? this is a very unfortunate accident for you, since, had I been well, I could have pressed my brother continually to do something for you; what did he say to you? I am in such pain that I can hardly breathe; shall you get a place or no, do you think? it was in *London* that I desired he would give you one, if he could. ‘ You had better keep yourself quiet,’ said the sister; ‘ and, as to you, sir,’ said she to me, ‘ I should be much obliged to you, if you would retire; your fee the lady’s life is in danger; and therefore it cannot be a proper time to talk of your affairs. You ought not to have come in at all, without knowing whether my sister could see you or no.’ ‘ Softly,’ said the sick lady, breathing with a good deal of difficulty, while I was making my bow, and going away, ‘ he did not know how ill I was, poor gentleman, how should he? farewell, then, Sir *Andrew*, to see how rosy and healthy he looks! but he is only twenty years of age. Adieu, we shall see one another again soon, I hope; this will be soon over.’ ‘ And I hope so too, madam,’ said I, going back, and making a bow, and then I set out to return home.

It may not be altogether amiss to observe, as I am going along, the extreme inconstancy of fortune: yesterday I had two mistresses, or rather two women in love with me; for the word mistress expresses rather more than the truth, and is used to signify commonly one that gives you her heart, and desires yours in return. Now the two people that I am speaking of, had neither given me theirs, at least according

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according to my opinion, nor cared whether they had mine or no; and, in return, I must own, I cared as little for them: I say the two; for I believe I may mention lady R——, as well as Mrs. *Amyand*; and behold, in four and twenty hours the wind changes! one I lose at the very time that I thought her most secure, the other seemed to me to be dying, and even supposing she recovered, it would be some time before we should see each other. And, besides, there were other young fellows in *London* as handsome and as agreeable as I was. In all appearance then, all was over with respect to these two. Lady R—— was very indifferent to me. Mrs. *Amyand* was the only one that had at all affected me. She had charms naturally; besides, she was a pretended devotee, and this in love is an additional incentive. But farther, as to lady R——, I had the affliction soon after to hear, that though the fever had left her at the end of about fourteen days, yet the violence of it had been such, that it entirely robbed her of her senses.

But to return. As soon as I came home I went to Mrs. *Thompson*, who was so in love with me, and whom, notwithstanding all these dissipations, I loved likewise very well, both on account of her charms (for indeed she was not without them) and of that almost pious tenderness which she constantly shewed for me. I really believe, however, that I should have liked her much better than I did, had I been really her gallant, and not her husband.

When we are under such great obligations to any one, as I was to her, love cannot be placed so properly to be the return that is made, as gratitude. This indeed I was full of, and this may be one reason why I was not in love, namely, because there was no room for that passion.

If I had been come from the world's-end, Mrs. *Thompson* could not have met me with more joy than she shewed at my return. We supped with our landlady that evening, who, by the manner in which she behaved

behaved towards me, seemed to me to be in love with me too, without perhaps perceiving it herself. So imperceptibly does that passion steal upon the mind, and even make a considerable progress before the person that it influences is aware of it.

The good woman thought that I should suit her extremely, and accordingly took a great deal of pains to let me know it. Oh! as to that, Mrs. *Thompson*, would she frequently say, 'you have married a very handsome man for your husband, that is the truth of it: you must not therefore be surprized if every body falls in love with him; I assure you I love him heartily.' And then, in a moment, after, 'You ought never to repent of having married so late, you could never have made a better choice if you had been twenty years about it.' These, and fifty such other blind speeches, would she issue forth, which did not give Mrs. *Thompson* a great deal of satisfaction, especially when she talked of her marrying so late, and harped so continually as she did upon her age. 'Good God, madam,' would she often reply, 'I agree that I have made a very good choice, I am extremely well contented, and glad that it pleases you. Neither do I think that I have married so very late as you imagine I have; people at my time of life are continually marrying. Is not that the case friend?' said she, putting her hand upon me, and giving me a look full of expression that seemed to ask me whether I was not very well satisfied. 'If people, said I, are not marriageable at your age, pray what time is better?' at this she used to smile.

As to miss *Sally*, our landlady's daughter, I perceived her observing our mutual endearments very closely, and that too not so innocently as she ought to have done. *Sally* had a tolerable arm and hand, and I frequently observed, that she endeavoured to put them forth to the best advantage, as much as to say, pray what has your wife got that can equal these?

Boarded

This

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This is the last time that I shall mention these sort of details, with respect to Mrs. *Thompson*; whose character it is hoped the reader is pretty sufficiently acquainted with by this time, as well as with her passion for me. Let him then suppose all possible attention on my side, and that we live together in the utmost peace and tranquillity; I will not therefore mention her any more. Alas! in a little while it will be seen that she has no more concern in any thing belonging to me; the moment that deprives me of her for ever is not a great distance, and it will not be long before I come to give an account of her death, and of the shock which that incident gave me.

You may remember that Mr. *Simms* (the gentleman whom the young lady and I had met at lord R——'s) desired me to come and see him in town, and we had taken care to get the direction where he lived from the coachman that had brought us back.

I staid at home all the next morning, where I entertained myself with the agreeable reflection, that I was all of a sudden master of an ample fortune. I took great pleasure in beholding myself thus at my ease: I walked; sat down; got up again, and, with a pleasing satisfaction, viewed the grandeur of my furniture. I thought upon my servant, whom I considered as entirely at my disposal: nay, I believe, I called her in order to make her sensible that she was so. Lastly, I contemplated my night-gown and slippers; and I assure you that they were two articles that did not affect me less than the rest.

With how many means of happiness is the man of fashion surrounded, which nevertheless he is wholly insensible of, because he was born to them, and never knew what it was to be without them! 'what! *Andrew*,' said I to myself, 'in a night-gown and slippers?' for it was in the character of *Andrew* that I was so much astonished to see myself in so comfortable a situation. It was from plain *Andrew* that *Sir Andrew* borrowed all his delight and satisfaction; and

and those moments would have never been so agreeable, if there had not been a time when I could not so much as have hoped to have reached what I then was, and now am. But, notwithstanding all the rapture that I felt at this change, I must beg leave to observe, that it only delighted me, and did not make me vain.

About four o'clock in the afternoon, my wife went out to make a visit; in the mean time I was reading a book, the meaning of which I did not much understand, and which indeed I did not care much whether I understood or no, amusing myself with it only to give me an air of consequence, and shew my wife that I could entertain myself alone whenever I pleased. As soon as my wife was gone, I threw off my night-gown, then dressed myself, and went out to see the young lady that I had met with in the country, when I went to lord R ———, and for whom I felt great tenderness, as you may easily perceive by what I have before said of her.

Notwithstanding I was now become so great a man, yet, as I had never had any other carriage than my legs, or my cart at most, whenever I used to carry cyder up to *London*, so I did not want any at present to convey me to the young lady; nor did it so much as enter into my head to hire one, when all of a sudden a coach that was crossing the street made me stop: the coachman, as he went by, cried, "does your honour want a coach?" these words, *your Honour*, quite charmed me; so that I bid him open the door immediately. You may perhaps imagine, that this was done out of vanity, though I assure you it was not; but rather out of a gaiety of heart, which I was in full possession of at the time, and to enjoy a reflection which I never had experienced but once before; namely, when I went to meet Mrs. *Amyand* at Mrs. *Baldwin's*.

There was some disturbance in the street in which the young lady that I was going to see lived, and whom
you

you are hereafter to know by the name of Mrs. Massey. My coach set me down a few yards distant from her door. Scarce was I got out of the coach, when I heard a great noise a little behind me; I turned back, and saw a very well made young gentleman, handsomely dressed, with a sword in his hand, defending himself as well as he could against three men, who had the baseness to set upon him altogether. In such circumstances it is common with people to make a great bustle and noise, but to give no kind of assistance. This was the case at present; there was a mob gathered about the combatants, which advanced and retired just as the young gentleman did. The imminent danger in which I perceived he was, and the baseness of the people that attacked him, affected me in such a manner, that, without any hesitation, nay, without so much as thinking what I was going to do, feeling a sword by my side, I drew it, and going round my coach in order to get into the middle of the street, I flew to the young gentleman's assistance, crying out at the same time, 'cheer up, Sir.' And indeed it was full time for somebody to assist him, for just as I came up, one of the men was going to run him through the body, while he was defending himself against the other two. 'Stop, Sir, stop,' said I, going up to him, which obliged him immediately to turn about and face me. This motion of his placed him on the same side with his companions, which gave me an opportunity of joining the young gentleman, who upon this took fresh courage, and seeing with what resolution I defended him, in his turn pushed at the ruffian with whom I was now engaged, and thrusting with all my might; and whom, notwithstanding their superiority, we soon made retire.

As my coming to the assistance of the young gentleman had engaged the people in my favour, as soon as ever the ruffians gave way, one with a club, and another with a broomstick, attacked them, and soon put them

them to flight. We left the mob to run after them, and staid on the place, which we found to be near Mrs. *Massey's* house; so that the young gentleman, whom I had just now defended, went into her house, in order to withdraw from the mob that surrounded us. His cloathes and sword-hand were all over blood; on sight of which I immediately sent for a surgeon.

Part of the mob had followed us into Mrs. *Massey's* court-yard, which caused such a noise in the house as brought down every one to see what was the matter. You may judge of Mrs. *Massey's* astonishment at seeing me here with my sword drawn, which was still so, partly on account of the present hurry and confusion, and partly from not having had room enough to put it into the scabbard, being so crowded by the mob. At this time, I must own, that I felt some vanity arise from the instance of courage that I had just now shewn, and from the posture in which I now found myself, notwithstanding the confusion which the accident had thrown me into; and concluded that I was truly worthy the attention and regard of the spectators.

But to return to our situation in the court-yard, where the young gentleman, the surgeon, Mrs. *Massey*, and myself, were. The moment she discovered me, 'What, Sir, is it you?' said she, frighten'd, 'pray what has happened to you? are you wounded?' 'I am only scratched, madam,' said I, strutting very majestically along the court-yard: 'but I am not the person that was aimed at; this is the gentleman;' pointing to the young man who was then talking with the surgeon, and who, I suppose, neither heard what she had said to me, or knew that she was there.

The surgeon was an acquaintance of Mrs. *Massey's*, and had lately bled her husband, as we understood afterwards; and seeing how pale the young gentleman looked, which it was no great wonder that he

he did, considering the quantity of blood he had lost, and which he was still losing; 'madam,' said he, 'I fear this gentleman is exceeding ill; I cannot possibly dress him here, we should therefore be much obliged to you, if you would lend us an apartment for a few minutes, that I may have an opportunity of examining his wounds.' 'What you ask is, no favour,' said she, 'but only a compliance with the dictates of common humanity.' 'Come in, gentlemen,' continued she, 'there is no time to lose.' 'I feel no other concern,' said the young gentleman, 'arising from what has happened, than for the trouble that I am going to give you.' Upon this he advanced forwards, and went up stairs, leaning all the way upon me, to whom he had already made a number of compliments, calling me all the while his dear friend. 'Do you find yourself weak?' said I to him. 'Not much so,' replied he; 'I believe the only wounds I have received are in my arm and hand; they will soon be cured. The only inconvenience will be the loss of some blood; but, as a recompence for that loss, I have gained a friend that has saved my life.' 'Oh, dear Sir,' said I, 'you need not thank me for what I have done; I took pleasure enough in the action itself; for the first instant I saw you I esteemed you.' 'I hope our friendship,' replied he, 'will continue;' and upon this we came into Mrs. *Massey's* apartment, she having gone before us in order to open a little neat closet, which she desired us to walk into, and in which there was a bed, which belonged to that lady's mother.

Scarce were we entered, when her husband sent me his compliments, telling me that his wife had given him to understand, that I was the person to whom they lay under such considerable obligations; that he could not possibly wait on me himself, being very ill, but that he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me before I went away. 'My compliments,' said

said I, to Mr. *Massey*, and tell him I will wait upon him as soon as ever the surgeon has examined this gentleman's wounds; (pointing to the young gentleman, who by this time had got his coat off, and was seated in a large elbow chair.)

Mrs. *Massey* then went out of the room. The surgeon examined him, and found that the arm was the only place in which he was wounded, and that not dangerously, but out of which issued forth a great quantity of blood. This, however, was soon stopped, as Mrs. *Massey* had provided every thing requisite. While the surgeon assisted the young gentleman in dressing himself, I went and paid a visit to the lady and her husband, who, notwithstanding he was in bed, had much the air of a man of fashion and education. His manner and discourse evidently proved him to be a gentleman; that he deserved to be in better circumstances than he was, and that the obscurity in which he then lived, proceeded from some misfortune having befallen him. I did not see the mother, for she was gone out. Our discourse now turned upon Mr. *Simms*, who had desired us to come and see him; and we agreed upon going to pay him a visit the next day; and, that we might be sure of meeting with one another, I promised to call upon Mrs. *Massey* about two o'clock, which I accordingly did; and the result of our visit was a handsome provision for Mr. *Massey* in the war-office.— But to return.

The wounded man, attended by the surgeon, came into the room, where he bestowed a thousand thanks for the assistance they had been so good as to give him. 'Pray, Sir,' said Mr. *Massey*, 'how happened it that these three men attacked you? did you know of them?' 'No, Sir,' said the young gentleman, who, as the reader will see hereafter, concealed from us the true cause of this quarrel, 'I met them by accident. They came up to me in the street; I looked at them very earnestly, without so much as thinking

“thinking once about them: this, it seems, gave them great offence. One of them said something that was very impertinent to me. I answered him with some contempt, upon which one affronted me; I replied, by attacking him; all three fell upon me at once, and I should most certainly have been murdered, if this gentleman (pointing to me) had not generously come to my assistance. I told him there was not much generosity shewn in the affair, and that every honest man would have done the same. But, said Mr. *Maffey*, do not you want some rest? methinks you come abroad too soon; do not you find yourself extremely weak?” The gentleman is in no danger, said the surgeon, he may very safely go to his own lodgings. We only want a coach, which we shall find, I suppose, on the neighbouring stand. The servant went and called one immediately; the coach came; the wounded gentleman desired that I would go along with him, though I had rather have staid, in order to have had the pleasure of Mrs. *Maffey*’s company; but I could not possibly refuse him now I had gone so far.

As soon as we got down stairs, the surgeon, who, I supposed, had been well paid, by the low bow that he made us, took his leave in the yard, and we immediately stepped into the coach. I expected nothing from this adventure; and thought that the honour arising from having behaved so well in the affair would be the only reward. It was, however, the prelude to my future good fortune; and I could hardly have chosen a happier incident to have befallen me than the present.

The reader may perhaps be impatient to know by what accident he really found himself in the above-mentioned distressed situation; and, as I am willing to give him all the satisfaction in my power, his curiosity will soon be satisfied.

Where

‘Where would you be set down?’ said the coachman. He did not tell him any particular street, but only said, ‘drive to lady S—’s.’ The coachman asked no more questions, which proved to me that the lady’s house was very well known, and that my companion was a man of some fashion, which indeed his appearance promised. Nor was I mistaken, as the sequel will more fully prove.

‘My dear friend,’ said he, as we were going along ‘I will now tell you the truth of my story. Near the place where you first found me, lives a woman whom I saw, and took a good deal of notice of, a few nights ago at the opera, as I sat in a box with some more gentlemen. She appeared to me to be excessively handsome; and indeed she is so in reality. I made all the enquiry I could, during the time of the performance, to know who she was, but no body could tell me. At the end of the opera, I went out of my box, in order to see her come out of her’s, and take a view of her at my leisure. I placed myself in her way, and found that her person would bear a close examination: she was in company with another woman who was tolerably handsome: she perceived that I looked upon her very attentively; and I thought I discovered something in her looks that tended to encourage me, and which assured me that she would not prove cruel.

‘There are in certain women certain airs, that tell you before-hand how far you are likely to succeed with them. When you look at them attentively, you may easily perceive whether they do it out of coquetry or not, or whether they are desirous of being farther acquainted with you. When it proceeds from the first, their sole desire is to appear lovely: when from the second, they go still farther, and seem to invite you to a nearer approach. I thought that in this woman I plainly perceived the latter; but, lest I should be deceived, I followed her

‘ her to the stairs, without attempting any thing else than
 ‘ looking upon her continually, and jogging her with
 ‘ my elbow as I passed by her. - She soon removed
 ‘ me out of my present uncertain situation, by a luc-
 ‘ ky expedient which she happily thought of, just at
 ‘ that time; I mean the dropping of her fan. I per-
 ‘ ceived her intention immediately, and resolved to
 ‘ take advantage of the opportunity she offered me,
 ‘ of saying something to her, as I returned her fan,
 ‘ which I did very quickly. She, however, being
 ‘ afraid I suppose of missing her aim, spoke first. “ I
 ‘ am extremely obliged to you, sir,” said she, as she
 ‘ received the fan. “ I am too happy, madam,” said I,
 ‘ to have had an opportunity of doing you this little
 ‘ piece of service.’ And as she was going down stairs,
 ‘ madam,” continued I, ‘ as the crowd is great, will
 ‘ you give me leave to hand you down?” “ very
 ‘ willingly,” said she, giving me her hand, “ for I
 ‘ am a very bad walker.” ‘ I then conducted her
 ‘ down the stairs, telling her, all the way as we
 ‘ went along, what pleasure I took in seeing her;
 ‘ and what I had done in order to have a nearer view
 ‘ of her. “ Are not you the gentleman,” said she,
 ‘ “ that I saw in such a box?” this she said, in order to
 ‘ intimate that she had observed my motions. As we
 ‘ were talking in this manner, we at last got to the
 ‘ bottom of the stairs, where a tall footman, who did
 ‘ not seem much to belong to her, by the impertinent
 ‘ manner in which he came up, said, that it would be
 ‘ a very difficult matter to bring the coach up to the
 ‘ door, but that it was a very little way off.’ “ Well
 ‘ then,” said she, “ let us go to it.” I accordingly
 ‘ led them towards it. My coach was foremost; and,
 ‘ as the little conversation which had passed, had
 ‘ given me fresh confidence, I proposed to them to
 ‘ get into it, and I would set them down wheresoever
 ‘ they pleased; but they refused my offer. I perceiv-
 ‘ ed that the person whom I held by the hand looked
 ‘ at my chariot very attentively. Soon after we came
 up

up to their coach (tho' by the way be it observed,
 it belonged to neither of them, it being only a hir-
 ed one.) I forgot to mention that whilst I was
 leading her to her coach, I had desired leave to pay
 her a visit, which she granted without the least ce-
 remony. "Very willingly, Sir," said she, "you
 will do me a great deal of honour." To which she
 added a proper direction where to find her; so that,
 when I took my leave, I promised to make use of
 the liberty she had granted me very soon. Accord-
 ingly I went the very next day: Her lodgings seem-
 ed to be very handsome; I saw several servants;
 there were likewise two or three people, seeming-
 ly of fashion, as well as I could judge from their
 appearance and behaviour. We played at cards;
 I was extremely pleased with my reception; and
 we had a few minutes private conversation toge-
 ther, which I made use of to talk to her of love.
 She gave me room to hope; so that I became more
 and more pleased with her. We were talking to-
 gether in private, when one of the men who at-
 tacked me just now came into the room. He seemed
 to be extremely uneasy at our familiarity; and, I
 thought likewise, that she seemed to pay some re-
 gard to his uneasiness; for she hastened away im-
 mediately, and joined the rest of the company.
 In a few minutes after, I left the room, and went
 the next day much earlier than I had the evening
 before. I then found her alone, upon which I be-
 gan to entertain her in the same manner I had done
 the day before. At first she seemed to laugh and
 sport with my declaration; and yet with such an
 air that bespoke her wishes that it might be true.
 I pressed her a good deal, and endeavoured to per-
 suade her. "Are you really in earnest?" said she,
 "you have quite put me at a stand. Not but I can
 hear you. — The difficulty does not lie there;
 but my situation in life will not admit of it. I
 am a widow, and have a law-suit upon my hands,
 at

' at the end of which I may perhaps be worth no-
 ' thing. You have seen a tall man here, much in-
 ' ferior to you in person, but very rich, and whom
 ' it is in my power to marry whenever I please; he
 ' is continually urging me to accept of him for a
 ' husband; but I am so at a loss what to do in the
 ' affair, that as yet I have not determined upon any
 ' thing; and what has happened within this last day
 ' or two," added she smiling, "tends less than ever
 ' towards my coming to a settled resolution. There
 ' are some people that one would much more wil-
 ' lingly love, than one would marry others; but my
 ' circumstances are too bad to permit me to follow
 ' my inclinations: nay, I cannot stay long in *London*;
 ' and, if I do not marry, I must return to a country
 ' that I hate, the situation of which is so melanco-
 ' ly, that I even dread it. What then would you
 ' have me do in this affair? and yet I do not know
 ' why I say all this to you; I am quite mad, I think;
 ' I am determined to have nothing farther to say to
 ' you."

' I perceived by this discourse of her's, that I was
 ' in company with one of those women whose chief
 ' revenue consists in a handsome face. I compre-
 ' hended what kind of connection it was that subsist-
 ' ed between her and the man whom she called her
 ' future husband; and perceived that she was wil-
 ' ling to know whether I was desirous of being in
 ' his place for a long continuance, or only for a short
 ' time. This was a manner of talking which threw
 ' me into a perplexity which I knew not how to
 ' get out of. I thought she had only been a
 ' woman of gallantry; so that all the while she
 ' was speaking, I was not determined with myself
 ' what I should say to her. But I had not time e-
 ' nough to come to any settled resolution, for the
 ' man above-mentioned broke in upon us. He frown-
 ' ed in a very insolent manner, like one in whose
 ' power it is to remedy what he sees. I had got
 ' hold of the lady's hand when he came into the room;

‘ and I perceived that it was to little purpose that she endeavoured to laugh it off with him, and tell him that she expected him with great impatience, for his brow still remained clouded. As to myself, I did not vouchsafe so much as to give him a single look, nor did I leave off entertaining the lady with a thousand ridiculous stories and pleasantries, which served as so many mortifications to the fellow’s insolence.’

The young gentleman had gone thus far in his recital, when the coachman stopped within a few doors of the house that he was ordered to conduct us to; and which he could not approach, by reason of two or three coaches that stopped up the way. We got out of the coach, and the young gentleman spoke to a footman, who immediately opened the door of one of the coaches that was standing in the street. ‘ Get in, my dear friend,’ said the young gentleman to me. ‘ Get in, where?’ said I. ‘ Into this coach,’ replied he, ‘ it is my own, which I could not possibly take to the place where I was going.’ This equipage was, I think verily, the genteelst that I ever saw in my life. ‘ Oh,’ said I to myself, ‘ this will go a great deal farther than I thought it would, your friend will perhaps be a lord by and by. Have a care, Sir *Andrew*, you must be circumspect, and mind what you say, in order to be of a piece with your dress; and that your discourse may not betray your want of education.’ This is, as near as I could guess, what I then thought upon the occasion. I then got into the coach, uncertain whether I ought to have done so first or no; and not daring to make any compliments on the occasion. ‘ The knowing how to live well and genteelly, does it require my sitting forward or backward?’ said I to myself, as I was getting in, for this was an instance which never occurred to me before; so that my slight experience could not afford me the least instruction on this head. Indeed,

deed, it told me, that we always make a number of compliments about who should go out first at a door; and so I thought it might be the same with respect to getting into a coach. However, at last I got in, and was already seated, when I began to think what I was to do. Here then I was side by side with a man, to whom, five or six months before, I could only have thought of being footman.

‘Have you got any thing particular to do?’ said lord C——, (for that was the nobleman’s name to whom the equipage belonged.) ‘If you have not, as I find myself extremely well, I am unwilling to return home so soon; therefore, if you have a mind, we will go to the play together.’

Hitherto I had behaved tolerably well, and had by no means lost sight (if I may so speak) of myself; but this last proposal quite overcame me. The thought of going to the play in such company quite made me giddy. The height to which I now felt myself raised, dazzled me. I found myself drunk with joy and vanity.

‘Just as you please,’ said I to my noble friend; and immediately the coach drove off with us. ‘I have not yet finished the recital of my adventure to you,’ said he. This is the remaining part of it. ‘I dined this day at lady S——’s; but, under pretence of some very particular business, I came away immediately after dinner, in order to pay a visit to the lady above mentioned. My coach was not yet come, nor did I see any of my servants below; but, as there was a stand near the place, I ordered one to be called; got into it, and was drove to the house. Just as I was going up stairs, I saw that rough person appear, who had been so much out of humour the day before, and who, with his hat on his head, notwithstanding I bowed to him, (which I did indeed more out of custom, than as any particular civility intended for him) pushed me very violently as he came by me. ‘You are very brutish indeed,’ said I, looking at him

‘with an air of contempt. Who do you speak to,’
‘said one of the others, who, had not made a bow
‘neither. To all of you,’ replied I. Upon this he
‘laid his hand upon the hilt of his sword. I then
‘thought it time to draw mine, which I did, and in-
‘stantly leaped back, as two of the men were above
‘me on the stairs, the other having passed me a lit-
‘tle before. Immediately I saw three swords drawn
‘against me. The villains pursued me into the street;
‘and we were fighting, as you well know, when you
‘came to my assistance, just at the instant that one
‘of them was going to dispatch me.’ ‘Yes,’ re-
‘plied I, ‘I was terribly afraid that he would have
‘killed you, and that made me call out to him, in
‘order to hinder his design; however, do not let us
‘talk any more of it; the men are a set of cowardly
‘wretches, and the woman, I fear, is an artful jilt.’
‘You are much in the right,’ replied he; ‘but come,
‘let me hear something about yourself; for after
‘what you have done for me, there is nothing that I
‘ought to leave undone, that is in my power to pro-
‘mote your interest. I must know who the person
‘is to whom I am so considerably indebted, and you
‘in your turn shall know who I am. I am called
‘lord C——, my father is dead, I have a good es-
‘tate, and my relations are in power; so that I may
‘venture to say that there is hardly any thing but
‘what I can do to serve you. I shall be too happy
‘if you will but afford me an opportunity for that
‘purpose. Favour me, therefore, with your name,
‘and the circumstances you are in at present.’ I
‘returned him my thanks for his kind intentions, as
‘you may easily believe, but very briefly, because he
‘insisted that it should be so; and, indeed I was afraid
‘of embarrassing myself, having never been accustomed
‘to make fine speeches. When a man has had no e-
‘ducation, he never betrays his want of it more than
‘at the time he is willing to shew off the most, and
‘pretend to be well bred. I therefore thanked him in
the

the plainest and shortest manner that that I could. 'My name is *Thompson*,' continued I, 'my father lives wholly in the country on his estate; and I am but lately come from thence myself, with an intention to get some post or other.' This account of myself was discreet; and, what was best of all, it was not false neither. 'But,' added I, in a very familiar tone of voice, 'if I should fail in my expectations, and my journey to *London* should prove fruitless with regard to myself, yet I shall esteem it the happiest step I ever took in my life, since it has afforded me an opportunity of rendering my services to so worthy a nobleman as yourself.'

Here his lordship reached out his hand, and taking hold of mine, 'my dear *Thompson*,' said he, 'you need not trouble yourself any farther about the making of your fortune; for that, from henceforward, shall become my concern. It shall be taken care of by your friend; for such, I assure you, I am sincerely, and desire that you would be mine.'

The coach then stopped, we being arrived at the play house door, when I had only time to reply to this generous offer by a smile of approbation. 'Follow me,' said his lordship, after having paid for the boxes; and in we went, where we found several of his lordship's friends.

And now, all those foolish giddinesses of vanity and self-conceit which had before taken possession of me, where at once dissipated. The airs and custom of the place quite confounded and amazed me. I felt myself exceeding awkward and ashamed, in the midst of a number of people who appeared extremely easy, and under no restraint. As to my countenance, I shall not mention any thing concerning that: indeed I cannot be said to have had any one settled look upon my face. I was astonished and confounded at finding myself in such a place, which arose from a certain feeling of my own unworthiness, and hindered me from appearing there with any degree of assurance,

which I should have been very willing that no one could have perceived; and which was indeed only the more clearly discerned, because I strove to hide it. I was greatly at a loss what to do with my eyes, not knowing upon whom to fix them. I did not dare to take the liberty to look upon other people, for fear they should discover, by my want of assurance, that I had not been accustomed to good company. And indeed the truth is, my elevation was too sudden for me to be able to appear in company with a proper boldness. I was but just made a gentleman, without having the least education, even so much as many other ordinary people have: Indeed I was afraid that the company would discover, that the gentleman, whom they now saw so fine before them, had been plain *Andrew* a few months before. Lord C——, who perhaps discovered my confusion, said, ‘Suppose, as the play is not begun, we withdraw from hence and go upon the stage?’ ‘Where your lordship pleases,’ replied I, and immediately he rose, and I followed him thither.

The play that was acted was the *Orphan*; and, just at the beginning of the first act, there came into the stage box, close to which I stood, a lady of exquisite beauty indeed. As the nearness of my situation gave me an opportunity of examining her very attentively, we will indulge thee, gentle reader, with a portrait, premising by the way, that we do not intend making use of snow, roses, lilies, and all those flowery similes which some think so absolutely requisite to the composition of their artificial beauties.

The lady just now mentioned seemed to be about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age; her shape extremely well proportioned and fine; her hair of a light Brown; lips of a most delicate red; her complexion exquisitely fair; the only fault of which was, that it wanted the enlivening red; and which, however, she was too prudent to supply by paint. Her eyes had in them some-
what

what so excessive lively, that it lively, that it is beyond description. They were of a middling size, of a deep blue, and seemed wholly calculated for looks and glances of the amorous kind; and, indeed, if one may judge of their efficacy by the execution they had upon my heart, I cannot but acknowledge it superior to any thing that I ever felt, either before or since. I viewed this matchless form for several minutes, enraptured with the view of so much beauty, till at last I perceived her turn paler than usual; and it was not long before she had need of some assistance, for she fainted away. I immediately leapt into the box, applied some Eau de Luce to her nose, and in a few minutes brought her to herself. She seemed extremely thankful for what I had done; I desired leave to wait on her home, which she consenting to, I called her chair, and followed it to *Suffolk-street*, where she lived. I took my leave at the door, with a promise to come and enquire after her health the next day.

As soon as I went home, I found our house in great anxiety and consternation; my wife had been taken exceeding ill at the lady's where she had been visiting, and was anxious to see me. I immediately went up to her apartments, and found her in a high fever. I sent for the best assistance I could; but alas! it proved ineffectual, she languished a couple of days, and then died.

I must own that her death (occasioned probably by too much austerity towards herself) did not shock me so much as it ought to have done. I felt some concern at first, arising partly from the nearness of the relation, and partly from the suddenness of the accident. Besides, the sight of this late beauty had taken such a thorough possession of me, that I was almost insensible to any other emotion whatsoever. It is true, and I own it with confusion, that gratitude required a very different behaviour from me, since it was owing to my wife that I made any appearance at all.

But love, which, wherever it is, may be called an all-ruling principle, hindered my being influenced by the proper motives; and suggested, which was no doubt at that time a very pleasing reflection, that possibly my loss might be repaired by the possession of this new object of my affections. But to return.

As decency would not permit my going out of doors, for some days after my wife's death, I contented myself with sending to enquire after the young lady's health. As the accounts grew daily better, in about a week afterwards I went and paid her a visit. From that time I used to wait on her every day for near two months together.

The agreeable manner in which she behaved towards me, and the being accustomed to see her continually (besides the additional consideration of her beauty above mentioned) gave me a friendship for her, and an easiness in her company, which I felt no where else. From this first sentiment, I came next to the desire of wishing to please her; and flattered myself I should not find it difficult to attain. Not that I thought she would prove an easier conquest than any other; for I was far from supposing any such thing: nay, so far was I from it, that I used oftentimes to debate with myself, whether I should continue my addresses, on account of the little probability there was of my ever succeeding; but yet, notwithstanding, after all my deliberation, I constantly returned to her again, more tender, and more diffident of myself than before; and, notwithstanding my endeavours to conceal from her the influence that she had over me, she discovered it. My passion for her, which seemed to be increasing daily more and more; the confusion I was constantly in whenever I spoke to her, especially upon tender subjects, wherein my heart was most interested, and looks oftentimes given with great earnestness; the care I took to please her in every thing; and, perhaps above all, the great desire she herself had of engaging my affections, made her think that

that I was in love with her. From several conversations we had together on the topick of love, she formed conclusions of my character, and studied to see what reasons I could possibly have for not making the declaration of a passion which I had once conceived. She thought that the secret way to engage and fix my affections, was to dissemble as long as she could the regard that she had for me. That the more accustomed I was to behave towards her with respect, the more sensibly should I be affected at any sudden step that she might hereafter take in my favour. That notwithstanding men pursue with great earnestness, yet they like to purchase their victory dearly; and that those women who think they can never surrender too soon, some time or other repent of their haste; and are sorry that they let themselves be overcome so easily. Thus far we were got in our acquaintance with each other.

Now, although this affair took up a great deal of my time, yet I always took care to keep up my acquaintance with Lord C——, whom I constantly visited two or three times a week, and always received a very hearty welcome. By this means I not only kept up an interest with him, which was of no inconsiderable service to me, as the sequel will fully prove, but, by being in good company, I made great and continual improvements. My natural shyness wore off; and, in a little time, I became easy and agreeable, even in the midst of company. Not but I must own that love is a great improver of the behaviour, as well as understanding. But to return to the lady abovementioned.

She thought that it was high time, I suppose, to give me some hopes, which she did by several tender and languishing looks, which had much more effect upon me than any thing she could possibly say. From trivial and general compliments, she came to particular marks of regard and esteem. She used, when we were alone, which indeed was very often

the case, to desire me to throw off the reserve I had put on. By these, and several other little artifices, she gained her point, I mean that of making me love her; and had at the same time herself taken so great a liking to me, that she was really in earnest, when she wished me to behave with more freedom and openness before her. Her situation, by her over assiduity, was become almost as perplexing as mine. What she endeavoured to aim at, was to inspire me with more confidence, to make me throw off that diffidence of my own abilities, and part of that high opinion which she had contributed to give me of herself; three very difficult things; and for the accomplishment of which there was need of a great deal of address. She saw there was no probability of my coming to an open declaration; and with respect to herself, she was to be so far from making the first advances, that the part she was to act was to receive my offer with great severity, even supposing she could be so happy as to get me to declare myself. With a man of experience the case would have been far different; a single double entendre; nay, a word, a look, would have been a sufficient ground for him to have proceeded upon; and even supposing a person is mistaken, the hazard is so small, and of such little consequence, that matters are set to rights again presently. But so far was I from giving Miss *Danby* (for that was the young lady's name) any such opportunity, that I seemed, if possible, to be more stupid than ever, notwithstanding all that she did to undeceive me; and indeed she could not well do more, without running the risk of frightening me, and by that means losing me for ever. We both of us sighed in secret, and, tho' we agreed in our mutual sentiments of each other, yet we were never the nearer being happy.

We were in this ridiculous situation for near two months, during which time Miss *Danby* was in the utmost anxiety to see with what a profound respect

I treated

I treated her; and accordingly she determined to free herself from the one, by curing me of the other. On subjects of love I always talked with a great deal of earnestness; proceeding either from a desire of being better informed, or from being particularly pleased with describing the situation of my own heart. Miss *Danby* observed this, and resolved some time or other to take advantage of it. One afternoon, when there was a great deal of company at her house, she and I had refused playing at cards, and found ourselves imperceptibly, and on my side undesignedly, sitting next to each other. I shuddered a little at this *Tête à Tête*; though it was what in reality I wished for, inasmuch as it was the fairest opportunity that I could have for a declaration of my passion to her.

Notwithstanding there was a great deal of company in the room, yet that did not inspire me with any more confidence; the corner of the saloon in which we were sitting, was quite empty, every one was busy; so that no one could have come to my relief, had I stood ever so much in need of it. I sat a full quarter of an hour without saying a syllable: she imitated my silence; and, although she seemed extremely desirous of entering into conversation, yet she was at a loss in what manner she should begin. At last, a play that was at that time acting, and had a tolerable run, gave her an opportunity of saying something. She asked me, whether I had seen it? I told her I had. ‘The plot,’ said she, ‘does not seem to be new; but I like the unravelling of it extremely. It is likewise well wrote; and, to my thinking, the sentiments are just and noble; are not you of the same opinion?’ ‘I do not pretend,’ replied I, ‘to be a very nice judge of these matters; upon the whole, I was pleased with it; but it would be a very difficult matter for me either to point out its beauties or its defects. Without being any good judge of the stage, one may venture to pass one’s judgment upon several parts of it. As for instance, on

‘ on the sentiment, in which it is hardly possible
‘ to be deceived, since it depends not upon the un-
‘ derstanding so much as upon the heart. Interesting
‘ circumstances equally affect the man of penetrati-
‘ on, and he who wants it. I discovered in this per-
‘ formance a number of strokes very artfully worked
‘ up: there is, in particular, a declaration of love,
‘ which I think one of the capital beauties of the
‘ piece. It struck me exceedingly, madam,’ said I
‘ and I am more particularly pleased with the author,
‘ for having managed this with address, because I
‘ am convinced of the difficulty that attends the do-
‘ ing it.’ ‘ This is not the only thing that I like it
‘ for,’ said she, ‘ declarations of love are made con-
‘ tinually, and these too very easily; if therefore
‘ this piece is agreeable, it is not so much on account
‘ of its excellencies, as for the new turn which is
‘ given it.’ ‘ I must beg leave, madam,’ replied I,
‘ to dissent from your opinion. I cannot think it to
‘ be so easy a matter to make a declaration of love as
‘ you seem to imagine; in particular, it is very diffi-
‘ cult for a woman to do it. A thousand reasons,
‘ none of which it is in the power of love to destroy,
‘ ought to render it inconvenient to her.’ ‘ Well,
‘ but I suppose,’ said she, ‘ you think that a man runs
‘ no hazard in making one?’ ‘ Alas, madam,’ an-
‘ swered I, ‘ nothing humbles a man more than the
‘ being obliged to declare himself in love.’ ‘ It is a
‘ great pity, that this idea of yours,’ said she, ‘ is so
‘ ridiculous, as the novelty of it might otherwise
‘ make it agreeably received in the world. What do
‘ you say? does a declaration of love humble a man?’
‘ undoubtedly,’ replied I, ‘ when he is not certain of
‘ being loved in return.’ ‘ And how would you have
‘ him know whether he is loved or not?’ said she.
‘ The owning his passion is the only thing that can
‘ leave room for a woman to make any returns to it.
‘ Think you, that however disordered and affected
‘ her heart may be, it becomes her to speak first;
‘ and,

' and, by that irregular step, expose herself to the
 ' danger of being refused, or at least of sinking low-
 ' er in his esteem?' ' Very few women,' replied I,
 ' would have any reason to fear the danger that you
 ' mention.' All,' said she, ' would have reason to
 ' fear it, if they placed themselves in that situation,
 ' by making the first advances; and you would be
 ' but too apt to despise a conquest (however before you
 ' might have wished it) when you discovered it to be
 ' so very easy.' ' This is far, said I, from being a
 ' reasonable behaviour, since by all means more gra-
 ' titude should be shewn to those, who save us both
 ' the trouble and pain of languishing for them any
 ' considerable length of time.' ' Undoubtedly,' an-
 ' swered she, ' but yet your sentiments are directly
 ' opposite to the interests of both sexes. And as for
 ' yourself, though you have sometimes exclaimed
 ' against men's injustice and ingratitude, in this parti-
 ' cular, you would perhaps act just in the same man-
 ' ner, if a lady was to make the first advances to
 ' you.' ' On the contrary, madam,' said I, ' how
 ' infinitely should I be obliged to any such lady! and
 ' how considerably would my affection be encreased
 ' by the pleasure resulting from being first applied to!'
 ' If the pleasure,' said she, ' were as great as you
 ' seem to think it would be, you must have formed
 ' surely a very terrible idea of a declaration of love.
 ' But pray, tell me, what is there in it so very alarm-
 ' ing? is it the fear of not being agreeably received?
 ' or is it the shame to be forced to acknowledge your-
 ' self in love? if it is the latter it is by no means a
 ' reasonable shame.' ' But, madam,' answered I,
 ' Do you not take into the account the manner of
 ' expression, which is not a circumstance to be pas-
 ' sed over by me, who am sensible I should do it so
 ' awkwardly?' ' The most elegant and best delivered
 ' declaration,' replied she, ' is not always the most
 ' agreeably received: we women are rather pleased
 ' with the vivacity of a lover, which is better calcu-
 ' lated

lated to persuade. This anxiety, the difficulty he finds in expressing himself, the disorder and unconnection of his discourse, being all so many marks of the violence of his affection, render him much more pleasing.' 'But pray, madam,' answered I, 'does this proof, which indeed seems to me to be almost an undeniable one, always persuade?' 'No,' said she, 'this disorder that I have been speaking of, both in the discourse and behaviour of the lover, proceeds sometimes more from his stupidity than his affection; and then it cannot certainly be of the least service to him. Besides, men have artifice enough to pretend this disorder, at the same time that they are scarce animated by a single tender desire; and oftentimes, indeed, they are not believed. It may also happen, that the man who professes himself our humble admirer, may not be the person that we would choose should be so; and in that case every thing that he can say will be to no manner of purpose.' 'You see then, madam,' said I, 'that I am not in the wrong to imagine that a refusal is a fore evil; and indeed, I much doubt whether I should not choose rather to remain in suspense, than by coming to an explanation, risk the being thought unworthy of the lady's affection.' 'You are the only one, I believe,' said she, 'that would find that such a mighty inconvenience; and, as to your own particular case, your reasoning is by no means just. It is infinitely more for your advantage, and more reasonable for you to speak, than to continue in an obstinate silence. You run a risk, by holding your tongue, of losing the pleasure of knowing yourself to be beloved; and, if it is out of the person's power or inclination to make that return to your affection that you could have wished, yet, at least, you get this good by it, you cure yourself of a passion, which, if suffered to continue, would in time prove a considerable misfortune to you.' 'But,' added she, 'I observe that you have
discoursed

‘discoursed a long while on this topick; and, if I am not mistaken, the only reason why the making a declaration seems so embarrassing a thing to you is, because you have got one to make.’

Miss *Danby*, while she was making this kind reflection, looked upon me very stedfastly, and that too in so lively a manner, that it completed my confusion.

‘Your silence and confusion,’ added she, ‘convince me that my conjecture is very well founded. The only use I would make of having drawn this secret from you, would be to lead you out of an error, and be of as much service to you as I can. I should be glad to know whom you have pitched upon as the object of your affection. Young as you are, and without much experience, you have, perhaps, made it without any consideration. If it is unworthy of you, I am extremely sorry for you; but this is not the whole, my advice may, perhaps, be serviceable towards destroying a passion, or rather a fancy (for it does not seem to have been encouraged by any hope given) and which will consequently appear the more ridiculous upon consideration. If, on the contrary, your choice is such as is consistent both with reason and honour, so far from endeavouring to dissuade you, I may, perhaps, be able to instruct you what methods you should take in order to please her the most, and likewise inform you from time to time what progress you make.’

This proposal of Miss *Danby*’s astonished me a good deal; although her manner was soft and engaging, and her eyes spoke the most tender language, yet I could not persuade myself to answer her a syllable. My eyes wandered to and fro, without daring to fix them upon her; I was afraid she would perceive the confusion I was in, and I interrupted the silence we had kept for some time, only by a sigh, which I had long endeavoured to suppress, but in vain.

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‘ I can no longer doubt,’ said she, ‘ of your being in love. Your silence encreases your anxiety still more. How do you know but you may be loved in return? Why then will you debar yourself the Pleasure of having that assurance given you? In short, sir,’ said she, ‘ I must know (my friendship for you obliges me to insist upon it) who you are in love with?’ ‘ Alas! madam,’ said I, trembling, I shall very soon have reason to repent of having told you.

In the situation we were at present, this discourse was by no means equivocal; and indeed Miss *Danby* understood me very well; however, it was not yet sufficiently clear, and therefore she pretended she did not understand what I meant.

‘ What is it you say?’ replied she, softening her voice, ‘ shall you have reason to repent of having told me? what then, are you afraid of my indiscretion?’ ‘ No, madam,’ replied I, ‘ I assure you I am not in the least afraid of that; but pray tell me, supposing I was in love with just such another person as yourself, to what purpose would it be for me to make a declaration?’ ‘ To none,’ replied she, ‘ blushing.’ ‘ I am not then in the wrong to persist in my silence,’ answered I. ‘ Perhaps tho,’ said she, ‘ you might succeed, for people of my disposition are not insensible; indeed perhaps less so than others.’ ‘ No, madam,’ said I, ‘ it can never be, you could never love me.’ ‘ We are now,’ said she, ‘ a good way from the subject we began upon, I do not see what occasion there was for mentioning me throughout this whole affair. You elude my question with a great deal more address than I thought you were master of. But to go on. Since we have already proceeded so far, of what consequence would it be, supposing that I was not to love you? we ought not to wish that people should be in love with us, when we are not in love with them; and this I do not take to be the case between you and me.’ I should be glad, ‘ madam,’ replied I, ‘ that it was not; for I perceive by the dread you have lest it should be so, that you
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'are determined to make me very unhappy.' No, said she, 'I am not afraid of it, for the fearing to see you in love with me, would go a great way towards assuring you that I should be susceptible of that passion myself. The lover that one fears is always the nearest to the being beloved. I should, therefore, be sorry if you thought that I was so much afraid of you, as you seem to insinuate. 'I am not so vain,' replied I, 'as to flatter myself with any such hopes; but, in short, supposing I was in love with you, what would you do?' 'I did not expect,' said she, 'that you would desire a positive answer, in return for a supposition only.' 'May I presume then, madam,' returned I, 'to tell you, that that supposition is ripened into certainty.'

Upon this detail of the situation of my heart, Miss *Danby* sigh'd, blush'd, gave me a languishing look, fixed her eyes upon her fan, then upon me, and was silent. During this time, my heart was agitated with a thousand different emotions. The constraint I had put upon myself had almost overcome me; and the fear of not receiving a favourable answer, hindered me from pressing her farther. Notwithstanding, as I had spoke my mind, I was determined not to lose the advantage that I might expect to result from it.

'Cannot you give me any advice?' said I, almost drooping with fear. 'Will not you tell me what I may have reason to expect? will you be so cruel, after all the marks of kindness that you have shewn me, to refuse me your assistance in the most important concern of my life?' If you only ask my advice,' said she, 'I can easily give it you; but if what you have told me just now is true, it will not perhaps be satisfactory.' 'Can you doubt my sincerity?' said I. 'As to yourself,' said she, 'let me tell you, that the truer your sentiments are, the more unfortunate will they make you: for, in short, you must know, that I cannot make any return to them.'

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‘What, perhaps, would be a recommendation to some other woman, to me would be a reason of disgust. Either you would not love me sufficiently, or you would love me too much: both which extremes would be equally disagreeable to me. In the former of these cases, I should be forced to bear with your caprices, your haughtinesses; and, in short, all the torments which are the consequences of unsuccessful love. I should see you give yourself up entirely to passion. In the latter case, and without any address or proper behaviour, you would ruin me, even by the excess of your love.’ ‘Do you think, madam,’ replied I, ‘that I would not take all the care that—’ ‘I understand you very well,’ said she, ‘I know that you are going to promise me all possible circumspection: nay, I am sure that you think yourself capable of exerting it; but be assured of this, that the less accustomed you are to love, the less likely would you be to do it in a proper manner. You would never be able to restrain either your eyes or your discourse, or by carrying your constraint to too great a length, you would most effectually discover what you would seem to endeavour to conceal. My advice then is to think no more about me. I perceive, and that too with some regret, that you are going to hate me; but I flatter myself that it will not last long; and that some time or other you will be pleased at the freedom and openness with which I have behaved towards you.’ ‘Will you not then continue, my friend?’ added she, stretching out her hand. ‘Alas, madam,’ said I, ‘you drive me to despair; no body was ever so violently in love as I am. There is nothing that I would omit doing in order to please you, no trial to which I would not very readily submit. You only foresee so many misfortunes because you have no affection for me.’ ‘No,’ said she, ‘do not believe that, I will tell you more; for you shall always find me sincere. If you were older, and I less reasonable, I
‘perceive

‘ perceive I should like you extremely: but as to any
 ‘ thing farther, do not ask me any more questions. In
 ‘ my present composed situation, I hardly know any
 ‘ thing of the emotions of my heart. Time alone
 ‘ will shew, and perhaps after a considerable length of
 ‘ it, no determination will be formed.’

Miss *Danby* left me as soon as she had said this; and, by joining the rest of the company, took away all hopes of continuing the conversation. So little skill had I in the world, or its artifices, that I verily thought that I had anger’d her extremely. I did not know that a woman continues seldom or ever a conversation on the topic of love, with one whom she has not some design upon or other: and that she who is, in reality, the easiest to be conquered, generally affects the greatest coldness and indifference on the first advances. She could hardly have made less resistance than she did; and yet I thought that I should never be able to gain my point. I was exceedingly sorry that I had spoke to her about it at all; I was angry with her for having engaged me in it; nay, I even hated her for some few minutes. I had formed a resolution never to speak any more to her about my passion, and to behave for the future so coldly towards her, that she should not so much as suspect that I had the least remains of it.

While I was employed in these several reflections, Miss *Danby* was congratulating herself upon having so well dissimulated the liking that she had towards me; a mild joy sparkled in her eyes, which, to a person of more experience than myself, would have been a sufficient proof of the lady’s affection. But all the affectionate looks and smiles that she gave me, appeared to me nothing else but so many fresh insults, and tended only to confirm me more in my last resolution.

I had staid all this while in the same place. She came to me, and started several different topics of conversation. The coolness with which I answered
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her, and the care I took not to meet her eyes, were to her an undoubted assurance that I had not deceived her; but, notwithstanding she was well convinced, yet she determined to establish her influence over me, and to torment me pretty sufficiently before she made me happy. The whole evening passed away pretty much in the same manner. She seemed to have quite forgot what I had said to her; and that free unconcern'd air which she put on during the whole time, distressed me exceedingly. As she went away she rallied me upon my looking so grave; and, though she did it without the least severity, yet I remember very well that I was highly offended at it.

The beginning of this adventure was as pleasing to Miss *Danby* as it was painful to me. The transactions of the day furnished me with a sufficient matter for reflection at night. I spent the whole time either in thinking of some scheme to make Miss *Danby* sensible of the esteem I had for her, or else in encouraging myself not to think any more about her. Undoubtedly her thoughts were not so much of the gloomy kind. She depended upon seeing me tenderly submissive: it was natural enough for her to expect this behaviour from me; but it must be remembered, that she had one to deal with who was quite unexperienced in affairs of this kind.

I went to her the next day, but very late, and at a time that I knew very well she would either be out, or have a great deal of company. In all probability she depended upon seeing me sooner, for she received me with an air of great indifference; and, as if she was offended. I was far from perceiving the true reason, but attributed it in general to her want of affection for me. I changed colour as soon as I saw her; nevertheless, I was resolved to conceal from her the situation of my heart. I recollected myself soon, and put on an air much less embarrassed than usual. Nay, I had so much command over myself, as to speak to her without that anxiety and confusion which

is generally so apparent in lovers. But, notwithstanding this affectation of coldness, it was not long before she was undeceived; indeed she had nothing else to do, but to look at me very attentively. I could not stand the test of her eyes; a single look discovered to her my heart at once. She proposed to me to make a party at picquet; and whilst she was shuffling the cards, 'You are a very extraordinary lover, indeed!' said she. 'If you are willing that I should judge of your affection by your assiduity, you can never think that I have a great opinion of it.' 'The utmost of my ambition,' said I, 'is, that you should believe that I love you; and it is no bad sign of it, the coming to you as late as possible.' 'This policy is singular, indeed,' said she, 'and if you now and then are out in your judgment, I must own that your invention abundantly makes up for it. But, pray tell me, what is the matter with you? why do you put on such an air of indifference? you must know your silence gives me room for apprehension. But, to the purpose; does your affection continue still the same? I should imagine, were I to speak my sentiments freely on the matter, that it does not. Do not, however, go and take up with somebody else in my stead, for you would drive me to despair if you should.' 'Alas! madam,' said I, 'ought you, after the indifferent manner in which you received my addresses, to add words that pierce my soul?' 'Yes,' said she, 'sir, (giving me at the same time a most tender look) 'you have reason to complain. I do not use you well; but do you not see what a constraint I have been putting upon myself all this while? how sorry am I that I did not know sooner that you desired the first advances should be made to you!'

These confessions that she made of her true sentiments, under a mask of raillery, were so far from being understood by me, they embarrassed me, if possible, more than ever. I did not answer her a syllable; and, altho' she cut me now and then with the most bitter railleries, yet it had no other effect upon me

me than to confirm me in my resolution of freeing myself from her chains.

‘ Indeed,’ said she, seeing how exceeding grave I looked upon the matter, ‘ if you refuse to believe me any longer—’ ‘ For heaven’s sake, madam,’ said I, interrupting her, ‘ have some mercy, the situation in which I am at present is a very terrible one.’ ‘ I will not say any more then,’ said she, ‘ that I love you, and yet you deprive me of an exquisite pleasure by this means.’

I thought myself very happy that the company in the room hindered her from carrying this conversation any farther. We then sat down to cards. All the while we were playing, Miss *Danby*, who was much more affected than she thought herself, gave me the strongest proofs possible of her esteem. One would almost have imagined that her wit had deserted her, and that the only pleasure that she had was that of loving me, and telling me so; and that she foresaw how very necessary this was, in order to give me a sufficient degree of assurance. But every thing that she did or said was nothing with respect to me. She could not bring herself to say seriously that she would make returns to my affection. As she was irregular in her steps, her behaviour was a continual mixture of tenderness and severity. She only seemed to yield in one point, in order to make a more obstinate resistance in another. If she thought that what she had said had so much influence upon me as to raise in me some expectation, yet in a little while she resumed that air which had so frequently made me tremble. The whole evening passed away in this manner; and, as her last humour happened not to be so favourable to me as I could have wished, I went home, persuaded in my own mind that she hated me heartily, and prepared to look out for some new object to engage my attention. I spent almost the whole night in thinking what woman I could pay my addresses to with any probability of success: but all was to no purpose; for after the most exact research, none pleased me so much as Miss *Danby*. I now looked upon myself as

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condemned to the severe task of loving, without ever hoping to please, or ever being able to change from one object to another. All the resolutions that I had formed of never seeing Miss *Danby* any more were now vanished, and gave way to the return of my affection, which was rather increased than diminished by this little interruption. ‘What reason have I to complain?’ said I to myself. ‘Ought I to be surprised at the severity with which she receives my addresses? or was I so foolish as to expect that she would immediately submit upon my first speaking to her? does it not entirely depend upon my own diligence? how happy shall I be if I can make her sensible of the esteem that I have for her, some time or other? the more difficulties she throws in my way at present, the greater will my victory be, when it is once obtained. Can a heart like hers be bought too dear?’ this being the conclusion of my reflections on this head, I determined to pay her a visit the next day, and make the most solemn professions of love and adoration to her, and to submit to every thing that she should be pleased to order with respect to my destiny. I accordingly went, and, after a discourse of near two hours, much in the same strain with the former, and which for that reason I forbear to mention, we at last agreed to be married as soon as I was out of my first mourning, which was accordingly done, to our mutual satisfaction.

And now fortune seemed to favour me exceedingly; my noble friend lord C— sent for me, and told me that, by his interest, he had procured me a place in the Exchequer worth five hundred pounds a year. This I took possession of, and still retain.

The occurrences of my life, from that time to this, have been only in the common way; and I am now in the autumn of my days, waiting in peace for the dissolution of a being, which has no anxiety to fear, nor any farther blessing to hope for.

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